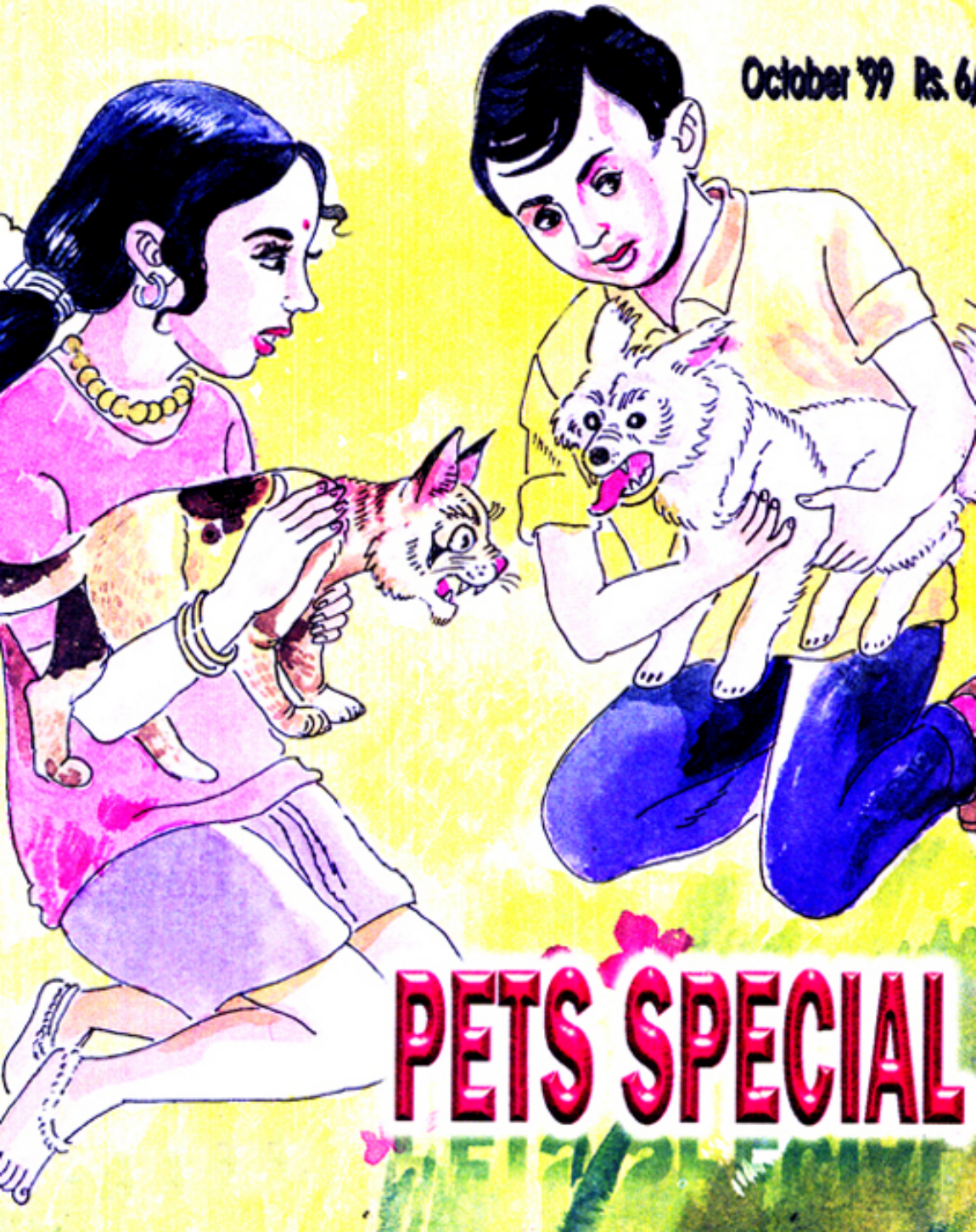
GOKULAM

The monthly magazine for children

October '99 Rs. 6/

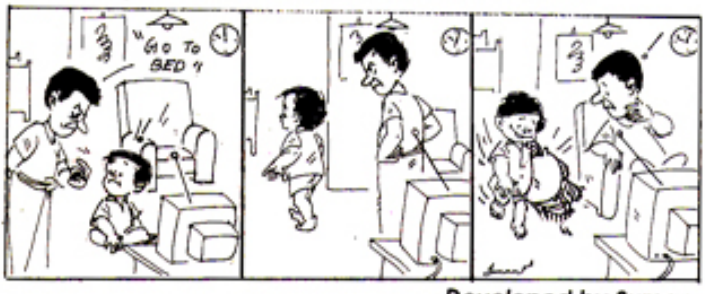


PETS SPECIAL

SPOT THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES

Answers : 1. Earrings, 2. Dollar on the right arm band, 3. Border of the towel around the waist, 4. Mike, 5. No. of sound waves, 6. The line on the second man's back, 7. The second man's armlet.

Concept : M. Rakesh Arun, Indonesia.



Developed by Suman

This is an important concept in environmental science. Can you name it?

Ans.: The Food Chain

Official : No, I can't find you a job. I have so many people here asking for jobs that I can't remember their names.

Applicant : Couldn't you give me the job of keeping a record of them?

M.A. Majid, Std. VII-A,
BHEL HSS, Hyderabad.

GOKULAM

Vol. XII, No. 4 OCTOBER 1999

Dear children,

The election process is nearing an end and hopefully we will have a stable government which will last a full term. We also pray for a good government for our country.

The sad part of this election was the voter turnout which was just about 50%. It cannot be said that frequent elections is the cause for this. Even during regular elections the voter apathy in our country is very high.

In a democracy, people get the government they deserve. Not that we have excellent candidates in every constituency, but the voters must choose the best among the lot. If they don't even come out and vote for the candidate of their choice how can they expect to be ruled well?

The campaign too descended to very low levels. Our leaders, big and small, should realise that personal low level attacks reduce not only their stature but the stature of the country as a whole. International news magazines highlight these negative aspects and the positive side is almost forgotten.

The new century is round the corner. Let us hope that the dawn of the 21st century will usher in better leaders and also better citizens who will take more interest in the affairs of the nation.

Good education is the key word for development and better performance in all walks of life. The new government at the centre should realise this and do very much more towards educating our masses.

Love,

K. Rajendran,
Editor

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
— William Canton

IN GOKULAM THIS MONTH

Editorial 1
Letter box 3
Subscription form 57

Stories
The letter 9
Serial - The village boy 16
Grandpa's wager 64

From our readers
For the love of pens 22

Petpals - Jino 34

Retold stories
The better job 24
The brave princes 26
The wise goat 63
The advice 70

Poems
My grandma 8
Ode to wars 15
Underwater 23
Of summer thrills... 69
Gandhiji 72
A teenager's prayer 74

Articles
The millennium bug 19
The wonder of nature 38
Mercury and Venus 71

Feature
The 4-day ordeal 4
Why does your pet love you? 44

Cover feature 75
Experience 42
Snippets 54
Viewpoint 58

In the wild
Elephant facts 20
Chameleon 62

Potpourri
Personality 12
Grandma worm 14
For your bookshelf 25
Fact-file 30
Strange facts 67
Hello, doctor! 68
Newsbits 78

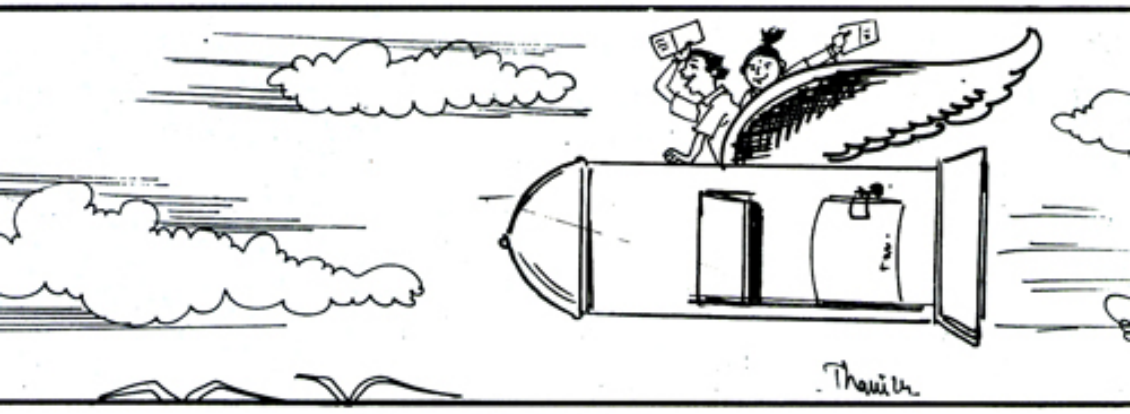
Sports
Sports page 7
Degree in cricket 61

Comics
Fantasia 28

Appu and Kuku 36
The justice 47
Balltoons 52

Puzzles and Activities
Puzzle page 5
Art gallery 40
Do you know them? 51
Answer page 73
Creative corner 80

Cover Illustration : Chellappan



LETTER BOX

A SUGGESTION

My suggestion is that the reader must write poems or articles in his own words. Please allot a separate page for jokes.
I liked your September '99 issue.

K. Samiul M. Vithulani, age 12,
Birla Sagar, Porbandar.

CONGRATS!

Sometime a year ago, a friend of mine offered me Gokulam to read. Now I am a regular reader of your magazine. I wish to compliment C. Lavanya for her contribution 'Ode to a soldier' that appeared in your August '99 issue.

Deepti Nambiar, Std. IX,
Chedanagar, Mumbai.

I have been reading Gokulam since 1995. I like columns like Grandma worm, Know your country, Sports page and Snippets.

V. Vidhya, Bangalore.

Why don't you publish more for readers of the age group of 7-8 years? I am going to read it regularly.

Samuel Jeeva Jyoti, age 7,
Kodaikanal Christian School,
Kodaikanal.

Dear Samuel,

Appu and Kuku, retold stories and the mythology sections are especially aimed at young readers.

PLEASE PUBLISH

I have sent many contributions to the magazine. Not one has ever been published though I have mentioned my school and residence address and the article was good.

Sarfraz Ahamed, age 15,
KEMH School, Shahpur.

Dear Sarfraz,

Probably your article was a repeat of some item that had already appeared in the magazine. Do keep trying. Remember there are a number of contributors like you. So, it may just take time to see your article in print.

I liked the article 'Word Games' in Sept. issue I know of a book *Crazy English* - (auth unknown to me). This book talks of interesting aspects such as palindromes.

Pradha, N. Delhi.

THE 4-DAY ORDEAL

In the previous issue you read of a fire that destroyed half of Bombay. That was only 55 years ago. Here is the story of a fire that took place about 33 years ago in London. The fire raged for four days. Only eight people died in the fire, but the loss of property was estimated at £11 million.

On the night of Sept. 1, 1666, King Charles II's baker closed his bakery on Pudding Lane of London and retired for the day. Three hours later, his house was full of thick black smoke. The baker escaped with his wife, daughter and servant but forgot the maid. She was the first casualty of the fire.

When the roof of the bakery collapsed, fire spread to the neighbouring buildings. People fled from the scene not bothering to extinguish it. By the next day, about 300 houses were on fire. The north end of the great London bridge was on fire. By now the citizens had formed fire-fighting units and tried to save the bridge.

The king was informed of the fire. He personally fought the fire. He ordered the demolition of buildings on the path of the fire. A few merchants and landlords resisted the demolition of their premises. The wind which favoured the fire made matters worse for the fire-fighters. The citizens had to encounter combustible goods like oil, hemp, timber and coal in the shops on the riverside.

Homeless citizens spent the nights in parks. Some people got on to the boats and vessels on the Thames. Some entre- preneurs hired handcarts at £40, a significant sum even today, to transport people's possessions.

Despite all efforts the fire assisted by a violent east wind raged on for three days. A sudden direction of the wind on the fourth day saved the city from further destruction. The fire was extinguished fully only on Sept 5. Ninety three churches including St. Paul's Cathedral, 52 warehouses and several art galleries and libraries were gutted. Only 50 churches were rebuilt.

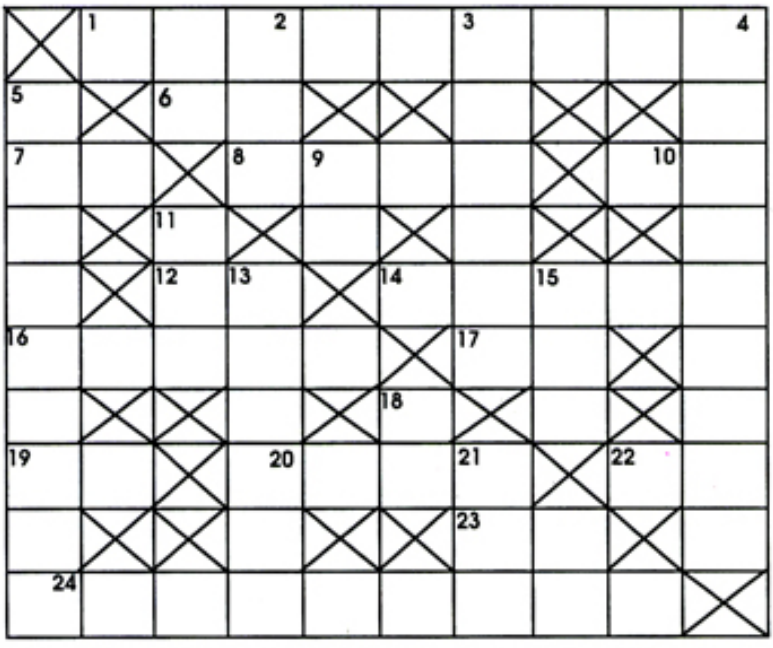
By 1671, the city of London had been rebuilt. Though the fire was caused by the negligence of the baker, a French citizen, Stephen Hubert was found guilty and hanged. The parliamentary committee that went into the fire concluded its report saying that the fire was due to 'the hand of God upon us, a great wind, and a season so very dry'!

Anoop Khanna,
Loss Prevention Association,
Chennai.

Courtesy : London 2000 years of a city and its people by F. Barker and P. Jackson

PUZZLE PAGES

CROSSWORD



Clues Across

1. The longest bone in the body - femur (9)
6. A pronoun (2)
7. Deny (2)
8. A body with life has this, we believe (4)
10. A verb (2)
12. This is an adverb (2)
14. Stretch (out) (5)
16. An award (5)
17. A prefix that means 'again' (2)
19. An adverb (2)
20. One foot scale has 12 divisions of this? (4)
22. A preposition (2)
23. Not a bull (2)
24. A small wild plant with blue flowers or don't go too fast! (9)

Clues Down

2. Add an S to 6 across (3)
3. A comparative form of bold? (6)
4. Pachyderms (9)
5. Encircle (9)
9. Either is used along with this (2)
11. Another word for help (3)
13. Not an alien (6)
15. A small ocean misspelt (3)
18. Cubic centimetre abbreviated (2)
21. A tool for loosening soil (3)

M. Smaran Kumar, Std. VII,
Ira Intl. School, Nagpur.

CRICKET QUIZ

1. Who was the first Indian to win the 'man of the match' award in ODI's?

2. Which Indian batted all five days in a test match?

3. Who was the first Ranji trophy player to score a triple ton in a Ranji trophy?

4. Who was the Australian Batsman who hit 99, 98, and 97 in successive innings against England?

5. Name the bowler who took all 10 wickets in an innings without the help of fielders.

6. Who holds the record for the highest individual score in Ranji trophy?

7. What was Courtley Ambrose before he started his cricketing career?

8. 'Not today, this is India's day'. Who said these words?

9. Who scored the most number of runs in 1983 World Cup?

10. Who took the most number of wickets in 1983 World Cup?

Manoj. P., Std. X, INHS, Bangalore.

Quiz

1. When is Philippines' Independence day celebrated?

2. What is the capital of Canada?

3. What is the capital of Ecuador?

4. What is the currency of Djibouti?

5. What is the total area of Fiji?

6. Who is the father of Heredity?

7. Which country in the world has the triangular flag?

ANSWERS ON PAGE — 73

SPORTS PAGE

• Paes - Bhoopathy - a slip between the cup and the lip

Tennis

At the US Open Championships, India's Leander Paes lost out in the qualifying round. But in the mixed doubles, Mahesh Bhoopathy won. The Paes-Bhoopathy pair lost out in the final doubles match against the US-Canadian pair.

The Women's doubles title was won by sisters Venus and Serena Williams.

John McEnroe has been made captain of the Davis cup team for the US. He has won the cup six times.

• Ganguly

Novotna to retire

Jana Novotna, winner of Wimbledon Women's Single Title in 1998, plans to quit professional tennis after this year. Novotna has to her credit 26 single career trophies and 84 doubles titles.

Athletics

At the World Athletics Championships at Seville, Michael Johnson emerged the newest victor. He clocked 43.18 secs. in the men's 400 m race. Johnson broke the 11 year-old record held by Butch Reynolds.

• Dravid

Cricket

Finally, it has happened. India has won the DMC cup at Toronto. Much credit goes to Rahul Dravid who also won the Man of the Match award.

Why doesn't India win more often?

Everytime one sits to watch TV during a game of cricket, one

often prays that India should win. More often than not, God doesn't seem to listen to that prayer.

What goes wrong?

It is not as if India is lacking in world class players. It is just that

Jadeja

India is not taking just that extra effort much needed to win the match. While players in other countries often consider cricket a profession, in India

Tendulkar

the game is played just as a sport. As a result the practice is limited to just a few days before the match. Our players are often plagued by other concerns too.

This time too, even with Sachin scoring centuries India cut a sorry figure. The fielding was much better yet, the opponent team beat India to the winning post.

The matches that we looked forward to so much ended with us biting the dust!

MY GRANDMA

I love my grandma,
She tells me stories,
She wears tiny glasses,
She is very cute,
She is always in a good mood,
She is a wonderful grandma,
She is my lovely grandma!

Jyothi D. Kamath, age 12,
Madhav Kripa EHPS, Manipal.

THE LETTER

Miss. Mahima put on her stylish glasses and faced the class. The children of VI-B gazed back at her.

"Today we will write a letter" Miss. Mahima said.

"To whom?" asked Ganesh, who sat in the last bench.

"To whom is wrong" said Aarti. "It should be to who."

"To whit to who?" Ajit called out, giving a good imitation of an owl.

"Quiet!" said Miss. Mahima. "We will learn how to write a letter today."

The class quietened down.

"Open your notebooks" said Miss. Mahima. There was a rustle of pages as notebooks were opened. "Now, supposing you were to write to someone about your summer vacation, or about any trip you made anywhere..."

"I went to Ooty" said Janaki, looking all around proudly.

Immediately there was commotion as each one shouted out the name of some place or the other. The new boy, Ravi, who had joined the school only the previous day, sat silent.

"All right" said Miss. Mahima. "Now, the topic of the letter should be : 'I wish you were here'. That is, you write to someone you are fond of, wishing that they were there with

you, so that you could enjoy the moment together."

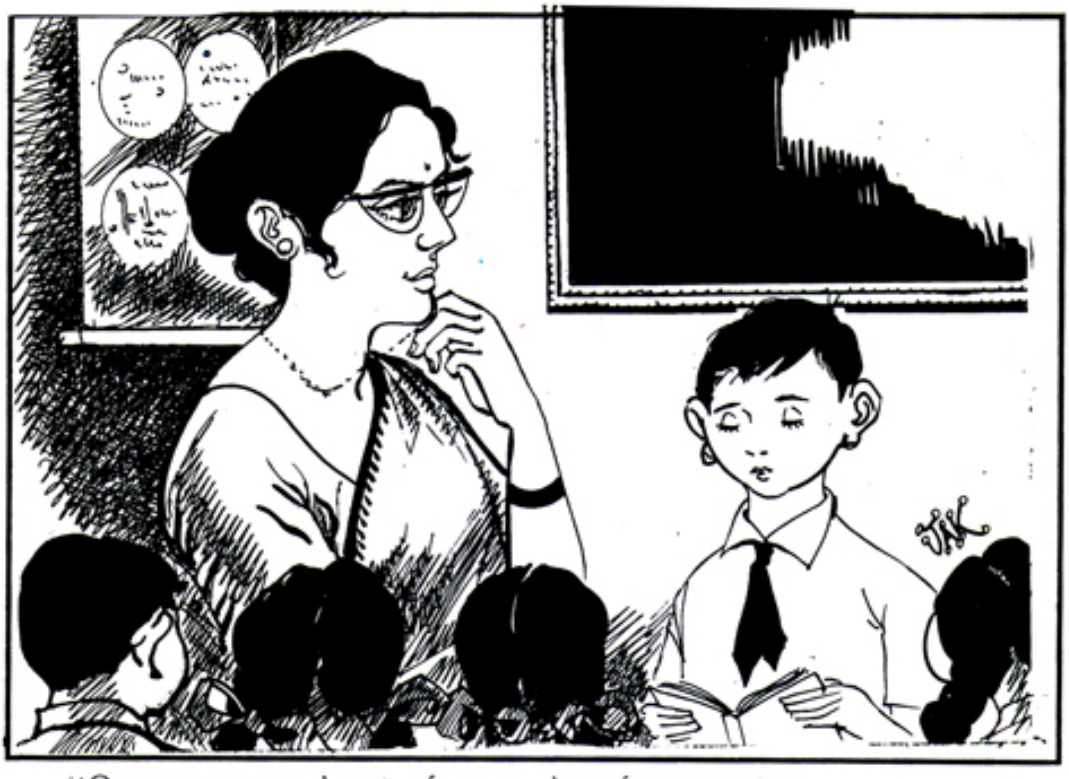
Ganesh jabbed Rajesh in the ribs. "You write to me, and I'll write to you" he said.

"I certainly wouldn't wish you to be where I was" said Rajesh.

"Janaki, I'll come to Ooty to be with you" Subashini yelled from across the class. Everyone started shouting to each other. Ravi, the new boy, still sat quietly, watching his noisy classmates.

Miss. Mahima rapped the duster on the table. "Silence!" she thundered. The noise subsided. "You start the letter with 'Dear So-and-so' or 'My Dear So-and-so'". She wrote that on the blackboard.

"Is So-and-so your friend, Miss?" Ganesh wanted to know.



"One more word out of you, Ganesh, and I'll send you packing" the teacher said.

"The letter should run only to a few paragraphs. Each paragraph should state a point. That is, the first paragraph could be made up of greetings and enquiries about one's health and welfare.

"The second could be about where you are and how you came there, the third, a description of the place, and so on. The last paragraph should end with 'I wish you were here'. Then you end the letter with 'Yours sincerely' or 'Yours affectionately', or if you are very close to the person, 'With love'.

"Then you sign your name." She wrote these words on the blackboard. "Is it clear now?"

"Yes, Miss" the class chorused.

And then there was silence except for the scratching of pens and pencils on paper. The class was very busy for some time.

"Have you finished?" Miss. Mahima asked after a while.

"Yes, Miss" the class shouted.

"All right then. Now, Jennifer, read your letter."

Jennifer rose, and shyly started reading : "Dear Leela, I went to Kanyakumari for this vacation. It is a place surrounded by sea on three sides."

"Surrounded means all four sides" Ajit said.

"That would make it an island" Aarti said.

"Please allow her to read" said Miss. Mahima.

Jennifer continued : "The sunrise and sunset are worth watching here. You can also swim in the sea. I wish you were here."

"Good" said Miss. Mahima, and then called Janaki to read her letter. Janaki had written to her friend Rajam using a lot of rhymes like Ooty and beauty, high and fly, and rain and

train. The class laughed at these silly rhymes. A few others read their letters, all written to friends.

And then Miss. Mahima turned to the new boy. "Ravi, have you written a letter?"

"Yes, Miss" said Ravi.

"Read it please."

Ravi began to read in a subdued voice : "Dear Daddy..."

"You have written to your father?" Miss. Mahima asked, quite surprised. Ravi nodded.

"Maybe he doesn't have any friends" said Ajit.

"Perhaps he wants some pocket money from his father" said Ganesh. Each one made some comment or the other, and there was a great deal of laughter. Ravi stood quietly.

"Read on" Miss. Mahima said.

"My dear Daddy, we are all fine. After we shifted to this town we are getting used to the new way of life.

"Do you remember the days we played hockey in the front yard? Sometimes we played carrom and I won a few games. I think you deliberately allowed me to win. But I enjoyed the game anyway.

"Mummy will be going into the hospital very soon. The new baby will be born in a couple of days, the doctor says. Grandpa and grandma look after me very well. Mummy says she will make me a soldier. The new baby too, if it is a boy.

"We are quite all right, but we miss you. I wish you were here. With love, Ravi."

"That is a beautiful letter, Ravi" said Miss. Mahima. "Maybe you should post it to your father. He would enjoy reading it."

Ravi stood silently.

"Where is your father?" the teacher asked.

"Somewhere in Kargil" said Ravi. "He is a captain in the army."

The class went very quiet.

"You can still send it to him through the Army Post Office."

"No, Miss" said Ravi. "We got a letter from the army saying that he was lost in action."

There was a gasp from the children. An intense silence descended on the class.

"Anyway, I wanted to write to him" said Ravi.

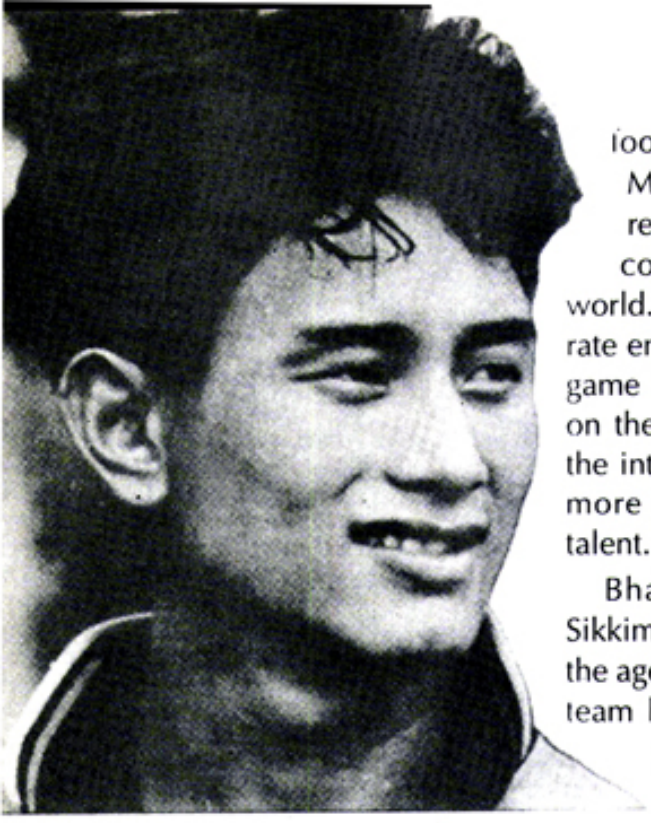
Miss. Mahima stood frozen near the blackboard.

JANAKAN

Passenger : Coolie, find a seat for me in a compartment that is least crowded.

Coolie : Sir, then you will get a seat only in a goods train!

Arvind Gupta, Std. X, Thane.



ACE

Bhaichung Bhutia is not your regular football star - the tall, muscular variety. In fact, by these standards you would pass him by. He is India's star and hope for aspiring footballers.

Bhutia is not the first Indian footballer to find a place in an English football club. Several decades ago, Masud Faqri participated in English football. Masud Faqri later settled in Britain and so India remained unnoticed.

Over the years, in India, Mohun Bagan has made a name for itself as the country's best football club. If you play for Mohun Bagan then you are in a reputed circle. English soccer is considered the fastest in the world. The league clubs are a separate entity in themselves. Here the game is rough and much depends on the players' muscle power. At the international level, the game is more artistic, displaying honed talent.

Bhaichung Bhutia hails from Sikkim. He was spotted by SAI at the age of 16. The SAI talent search team had come up with an international material. Bhutia began his career at the Tashi Namgyal Academy in Gangtok. Since then there was no looking back. He moved on to East Bengal and represented JCT. In May 1999, the Asian Football Confederation declared him

'Best Asian Footballer'.

Bhutia, however, took both praise and criticism in his stride. When he was rejected the first time round because he fell short of expectations of the British clubs, he said, 'football alone is not life'. For someone who had struggled so hard, those were brave words.

Bhutia, however, didn't take the rejections to heart. Instead, he prepared himself. He trained in Sweden and tried his luck in several clubs in England. Finally the much awaited break came. He was chosen by Bury, in the suburbs of Manchester. It is a second division club. He passed the ten-day trial period and scored a hat-trick during a friendly match.

Sheela : Dad, is ink expensive?

Dad : No, Sheela it isn't.

Sheela : Then why is mom so much upset because I spilled some on her sari?

Archana Arun and Arvind Sriram,
VI Std.,
Hindu SSS, Chennai.

Bhutia has set an example for aspiring footballers. If Bhutia plays well and perseveres he may move up to premier league clubs. This may pave way for enterprising young footballers. India may then hope to

FOOTBALLER

Bhutia is considered the fastest Indian footballer. His reflexes are very sharp too.

Bhutia, has above all, the total dedication which has seen him through the toughest of times.

Bhutia has now signed a three-year contract with Bury. Though Bhutia may not be as famous as the stars of International football, he is our hope.

have players of international standards.

The Indian government has recognised Bhutia by honouring him with the Arjuna award, the highest recognition conferred on a sportsman in the country.

Bhutia can make it to the premier leagues because men like Maradona who was just four feet plus was very skinny and nothing like a footballer when he began playing the game.

GRANDMA WORM

I am in Std. X. I am only 4 ft. 11 inches tall. My brother who is only a year older than me is 5 ft. 5 inches. I used to go regularly to the park and work out (jogging, parallel bars etc). I didn't find any change. Now we have shifted to Chennai and my school begins at 7.20 am. I don't have time to do exercises. There are no sports clubs near my home. My school does not have a playground either. What shall I do?

M. Srividhya, age 15,
Hindu SSS, Chennai.

Dear Srividhya,

You still have two to three years before you can begin worrying about your height. Exercises do help. Height is a heriditary factor. Wear clothes that make you appear tall.

Some students in my class run faster than me. In a race held for selecting a team for kho-kho I was not chosen because I couldn't run fast. How can I improve?

G. Arun, age 11,
Jai Gopal Garodia
Vivekananda Vidhyalaya,
Chennai.

Dear Arun,

Try running 100 m everyday. Practice this either in your school grounds or at any playground near your home.

I have taken Hindi as my second language. I want to improve. Please give me the address of organisations or shops where I can buy CD/ROMs, video-audio lessons on improving Hindi.

R. Balajee, Chennai.

Boy 1 : Why is heaven always opposite to hell?
Boy 2 : I don't know!
Boy 1 : Because, hell is always opposite to heaven!

M.S. Ummu Ammara, Std. XII,
Iamam Gazzali MHSS, Lalpet.

Dear Balajee,

Get in touch with Hindi Prachara Sabha, Thanikachalam Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 17. They may be able to help you.

I often quarrel with my sister who is always irritating me. I get scolded by my mother or father because of her. What can I do?

M.P. Anbamuthan, age 14,
Bishop Heber HSS,
Trichy.

Dear Anbamuthan,

You are old enough to realise that a sibling can be a great asset. Since you realise that your fights with her only create trouble why not stop fighting? If you find her irksome, then leave the room and go for a walk. By the time you return home your anger would have dissipated. Keep away from your sister as much as you can if you find it hard to control your temper. Spend more time with boys of your age. Find out how your friends tackle their sisters. You may even get a few novel suggestions!

Love,
Grandma worm.

ODE TO WARS

Why should we have wars
That leave people many in tears?
Wars leave the soldiers in mutilated condition,
Which seems to be a terrible situation.

A soldier is always ready with a gun,
And he doesn't think about even a little fun.

He is ready to sacrifice his life,
Leaving all alone his children and his wife.

For the sake of war widows, raised are the funds,
But it is impossible to tolerate the loss of their dear ones.
Their children bear their faces with pride,
Though unseen they believe their father will guide.

Oh! Our Indian jawans!
We salute you! We respect you!
We encourage you! We adore you!
Save India, Our Motherland,
Your patriotism is the magic wand!

H. Srinandini, Std. IX A,
ASSISI MHSS, Chennai.

THE VILLAGE BOY

PART-1

The students had been chattering since the first bell. There was so much to talk about, to exchange news about everything that had happened between last evening and this morning. The second bell sounded.

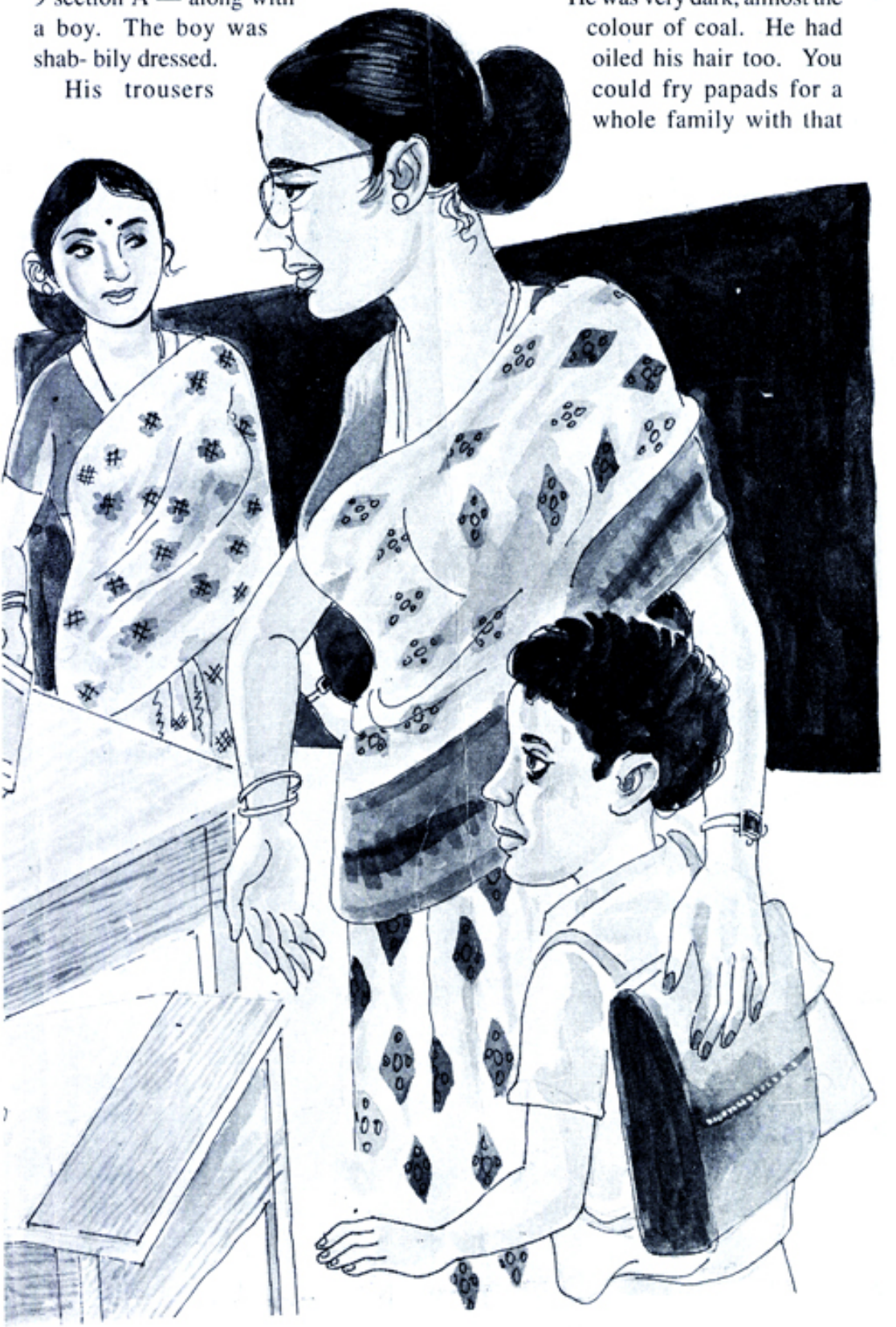
The first period began. Students took their seats hurriedly. Lekha always sat in the first row. She was listening to her english teacher.

Lekha went to a prestigious convent in the city. Children of well-known people of the city studied in her school. The famous cine actor's son, the police commissioner's daughter, the renowned playback singer's twin daughters — all were students of that school.

School had reopened for the year only two months ago. Lekha's eyes riveted to the verandah where the headmistress

was walking towards her class — class 9 section A — along with a boy. The boy was shab- bily dressed.

His trousers and shirt were two sizes larger for him. He was very dark, almost the colour of coal. He had oiled his hair too. You could fry papads for a whole family with that



oil! The boy, Lekha guessed, must be from a remote village.

The headmistress held the boy's hand firmly. She looked as if she was conducting a prize-winning sportsman to the podium. The headmistress entered the class. The children stood up. She spoke to the class teacher and then left the class. The boy now stood next to the class teacher.

The teacher spoke something to the boy. He was blinking back tears! Lekha could hear giggles and suppressed laughs from the middle and the back benches.

A little later, the teacher turned to the class and said, "Alright, students. Let me introduce Poopandi." The class roared with laughter. Lekha too laughed heartily.

The teacher shouted, "Why are you laughing? Poopandi has joined our school and our class today. Welcome him as you friend."

She then turned to the boy who was now shivering.

"Poopandi, tell us about yourself. Where do you come from? What is your father?"

Poopandi hesitated. The teacher coaxed him. "Come on, Poopandi. We don't have much time left."

Poopandi swallowed hard and began in a faltering voice... "My name... Poopandi. I... I... village Vikravandi come. Forty miles from Chennai. My father... my father business."

The class broke into peals of laughter for the second time. The students were used only to flawless english. So, Poopandi's faulty stammer sounded funnier than even his appearance. Even the teacher found it difficult to suppress her smile.

"Thank you Poopandi, now go to your seat." The boy stood rooted, staring at the teacher through a wall of tears. Only then did the teacher realise her mistake.

"Oh! I haven't allotted a seat to you. I'm sorry. I will do it right now. Lekha, give your seat to him and go to the second row."

Lekha was shocked. The smile disappeared from her face. She had been sitting in the first row all these years. She definitely wasn't going to give up her favourite first row for some rustic! She stood up and said defiantly, "Miss, why don't you let the new admission sit in the second row? I have been sitting in the fist row since my first standard."

The teacher was annoyed. "Lekha, do as you are told. Sit in the second row. Now." Poopandi sat in Lekha's place. Lekha sat in the next row, exactly behind him.

When the teacher turned to the blackboard Lekha spoke into Poopandi's ears, "Don't gloat over taking my seat. You are in deep trouble, you country boot!"

Poopandi was perplexed. He cast a pitiful glance as if to ask, 'Was it my mistake?'

To continue

R. Shreedharon, Madurai.

Who am I?

Those who make me do not use me and those who use me do not see me. Who am I?

D. Subhash, Bangalore.

Answer : Coffin

THE MILLENNIUM BUG

Usually we write the date in the format — DD.MM.YY. While writing the year we omit the first two numbers. This is the method followed even by computers. However, this has been the bane.

Thus if you enter your computer on 01.01.2000, you would be entering it as 01.01.00. The computer may per- ceive it as 01.01.1900! Thus 01.01.00 becomes an invalid date. Besides, 01.01.1900 falls on a monday and 01.01.2000 falls on a saturday. Thus, all date-sensitive programmes will be thrown off-gear.

What is Y2K compliance?

Computers world over are being readjusted to do away with errors in date computation. They must behave consistently for dates before, during and after the year 2000. (So that your computer can recall 01.01.00 as either 01.01.1900 or 01.01.2000 correctly as required by you.)

In India Y2K compliance is not a very big problem. However, in countries where even the elevators, VCRs, household appliances etc. are monitored by computers, this could create problems.

Here is an example of a computer which is not Y2K compliant.

The computer is originally programmed to calculate the date by subtracting the date of birth from the number 99 (the year this millennium ends). If a person was born in 1945 then the computer subtracts 45 from 99 and arrives at 52. In 2000, the computer will arrive at -55 (00-45 = -55). Since the computer is programmed to ignore the - sign, it will arrive at the age as 55!

A Y2K compliant computer is programmed to calculate the years and dates correctly.

Such problems (with non Y2K compliant computers) can throw off-gear operations in financial sector, which is very date-sensitive.

Does it look like the human brain is more dependable than machines devised by humans?

S. Keerthi Sagar, VIII A,
KV No. 1 Tirupati.

An elephant tusk is a modified incisor teeth. Trained elephants are called kumkis. Tuskless male elephants are called Makhanas. The gestation period of an elephant is 18 to 22 months. Male elephants in heat period are said to be 'mast' (wild).

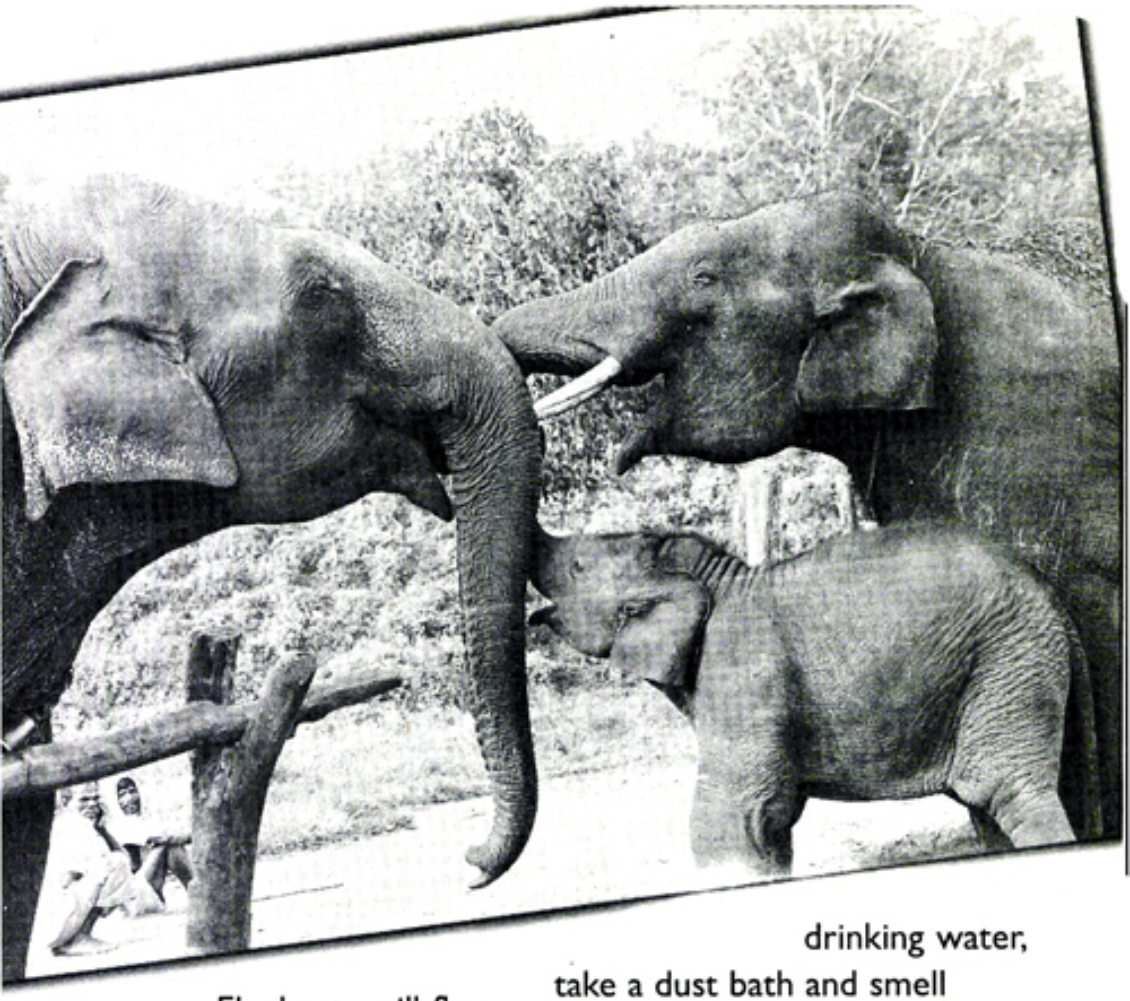
During the olden days, elephants were captured using a method called 'khedda'; the new method is tranquilisation.

An elephant lives for about 60 years. It uses infrasound for hearing. It can hear sounds below 20 decibels which is the lowest range of sound that man can hear.

If water is not available, elephants will spray themselves with mud. Elephants do this to keep themselves cool because they don't have sweat glands.

The man who controls and looks after elephants is called a mahout.

ELEPHANT



Elephants will flap their ears when angry, to frighten away enemies.

An elephant's head looks larger when it raises its ears.

The trunk of an elephant is a modified elongated nose which it uses to reach leaves, pick up objects, suck up drinking water, take a dust bath and smell danger. The trunk contains 40,000 muscles.

An adult elephant requires on an average 270 kg of fodder and 227 litres of water daily.

An elephant is a herbivore and yet is the largest and the strongest animal. Tuskless elephants are never poached.

FACTS

Ganesh Jain, age 10, Aurobindo Vidhya Mandir, Bangalore.

For the love of PENS

Anne was nine years old. She was very fond of pens. She was a very lazy girl. She disliked studying. She would, however, willingly help her mother with her household chores. Her mother was very pleased with her. But her father wanted her to study. He wanted Anne to study and make something of herself.

Anne's father was a hard-working man. It was difficult for him to make both ends meet, yet he was willing to spend any amount on his daughter's education. The half-yearly exams were just over and Christmas was round the corner.

Anne hoped that Santa would present her a wonderful gift. Actually, she hoped Santa would gift her a pen. Her father couldn't afford to buy her expensive pens. So, she prayed that Santa Claus would learn of her desire to possess a beautiful pen.

Since Anne was a good girl, that Christmas Anne did receive a surprise. Her wish that the Santa present her a pen was granted! On Christmas Day, beside her pillow lay a beautiful pen. It could

write in blue, red and black.

Soon, the school reopened and Anne's class teacher announced the results. Anne had scored very low in the class. She actually stood at the bottom of the class. She was very upset with herself. When the bell rang her teacher called out to her and said, "Stay back in the class Anne, I need to talk to you."

She then told Anne, "You are intelligent but you are not hard-working. If you work hard you can stand first in the class."

Anne nodded her head. From that day she began concentrating on her studies.

Soon the annual exams were declared. Anne did well in her exams.

It was time for the results. Anne had stood second in the class! Anne's class teacher was surprised. Her parents too were surprised. On the school annual day, the principal gave away prizes to the class toppers. Anne's name was called. She went up to the stage. Anne was pleased. The principal presented her with a certificate and guess what? A beautiful pen! Anne was surprised. She now had a shining pen.

It could write in violet and pink. Now she had two good pens. Anne decided to study well.

K.L. Sudha, age 12,
KV, Palakkad.

UNDERWATER

In the deep kingdom underwater
There is no light and little chatter.

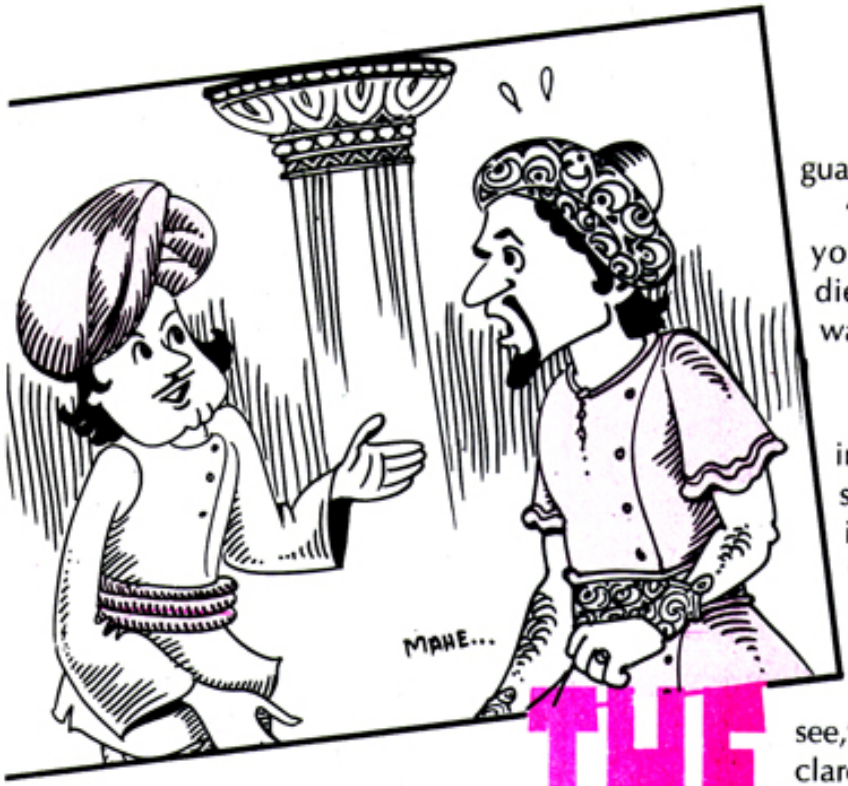
Down below are fish in schools
Dolphins and whales rule.

Unique sea-horses gallop true,
Corals, starfish are there too.

The oysters live in the sea bed blue
And bring forth pearls of shining hue.

I wish I were a diver too
To plunge into sea so beautiful blue.

Anand Natarajan, age 11,
T.V.S.L.M.S.S., Madurai.



THE BETTER JOB

One of the ministers in Akbar's court believed that soldiers served the country better than farmers. He also thought farming was a 'no good' profession.

He knew that Birbal thought otherwise. The minister was waiting for an opportunity to belittle Birbal.

One day, the minister approached Birbal and asked, "Raja Birbal, what did your ancestors do for a living?"

Birbal said, "Farming. My father was a farmer too."

"How did he die?"

"He always guarded the fields during the nights. One night he caught a chill and died in the farm guarding the fields."

"And how did your grandfather die?" the minister wanted to know.

"He too died in the farm. He slipped and fell into a well while watering the crops," Birbal said.

"Now you see," the minister declared triumphantly, "farming is not a good occupation."

Birbal asked the minister, "What did your ancestors do for a living, Mullaji?"

The minister said, "We have always been soldiers."

"How did your father die?" Birbal asked.

"He was a soldier. He died fighting in a battle."

"And how did your grandfather die?" Birbal asked.

"He died while fighting a war," said the Mullah.

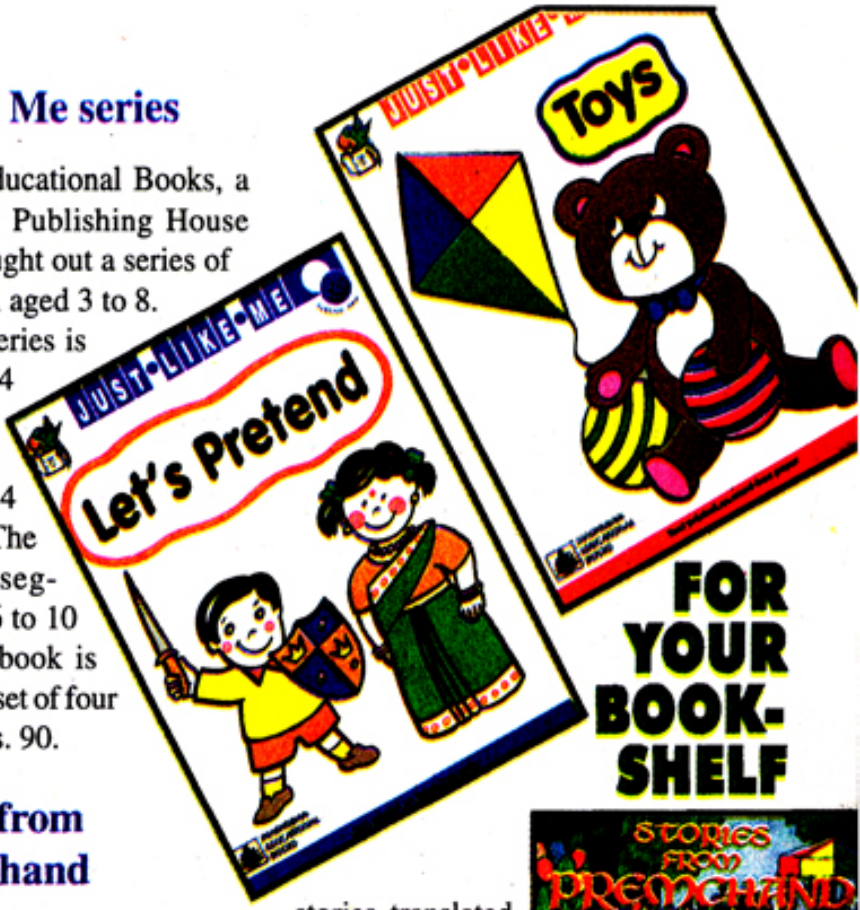
"Now you see, being a soldier is no good!"

M.S. Karthikeyan, Std. VI E,
Alpha MHSS, Chennai.

FOR YOUR BOOK-SHELF

Just Like Me series

Madhuban Educational Books, a division of Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., has brought out a series of books for children aged 3 to 8. The pre-reading series is aimed at the 3 to 4 age segment while the just reading series is aimed at 4 to 6 age group. The already reading segment is aimed at 6 to 10 age group. Each book is priced Rs. 25/-. A set of four books comes at Rs. 90.



Stories from Premchand

Those familiar with Hindi literature would have read a few of Premchand's works. This Indian writer of the early 20th century, had a deep insight into the plight of the deprived people.

Premchand was Dhanpat Rai's pen name. Most of his stories are based on his own experiences in life. He was a school teacher by profession. He has written short stories, novels and film scripts.

Of his 300 short stories only 40 have been translated into english. Premchand's works speak of the lives of poor peasants, cruel money-lenders, landlords and ill-treated widows.

Madhuban Educational Books has brought out a collection of his short stories, translated into English.

Many stories in this collection revolve around children, who are the main characters. ***The Chess Player*** is a historical story. Premchand's stories have plenty of satire, humour and understanding of the people.

The stories have been translated by Rashme Sehgal. The book is priced Rs. 45.

Madhuban Education Books, A Division of Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., 576, Masjid Road, Jangpura, N. Delhi - 110 014.

THE BRAVE PRINCES

Rajveer was a brave and a wise ruler. His subjects loved him. His kingdom was a prosperous land. This aroused the envy of Wazir Shah, the ruler of the neighbouring land.

The Shah trained his men and one day attacked Rajveer's kingdom. A fierce battle ensued and Rajveer's soldiers fought back valiantly. On the fifth day, King Rajveer fell.

His two sons, Dhanuraj and Chamraj, fled from the battle field. The Shah took over the reign of Rajveer's kingdom.

The princes wandered in the forests. One day they came upon the cottage of an old man.

They were tired and hungry and hoped to find kind people in the cottage. They knocked on the door of the cottage. An old man opened the door and asked, "Who are you? Why have you come here?"

The boys replied, "We are the sons of King Rajveer. We have lost our kingdom, in a battle to the Shah."

The old man invited them in and asked them to stay with him till they recouperated.

The boys stayed with the old man for some days. One day they decided to find work.

They thanked the old man and left the cottage.

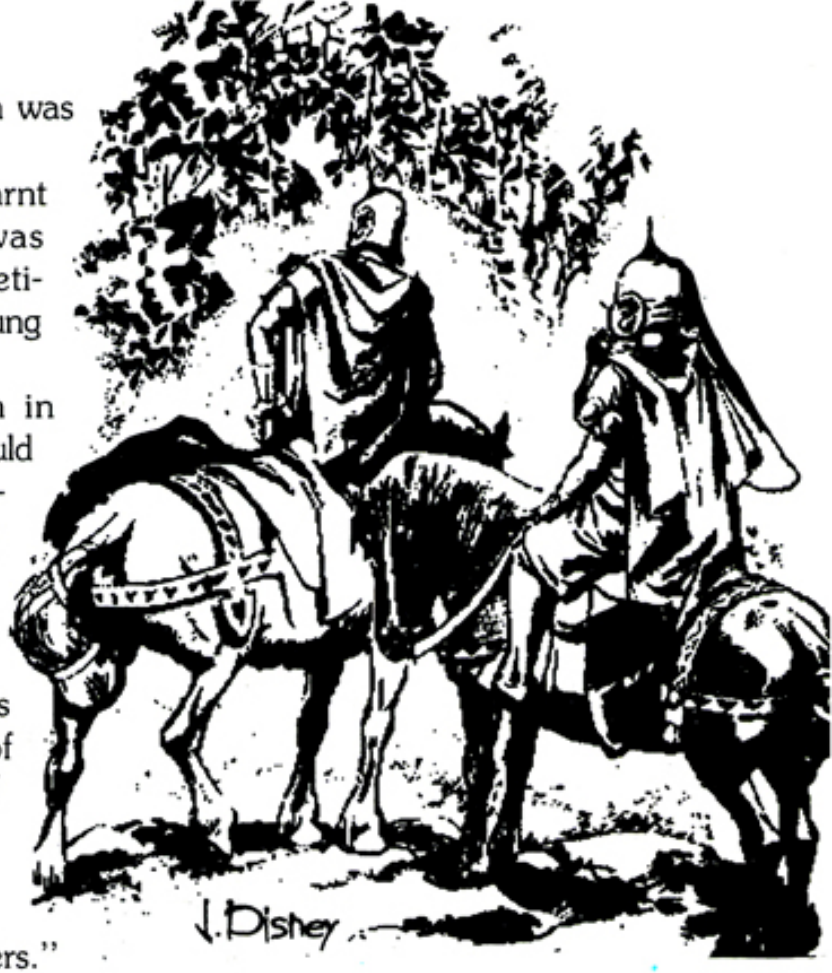
Soon, they came upon a city. They roamed the streets of the city. They arrived at the royal palace.

A test of strength was being conducted.

The princes learnt that the king was holding a competition for eligible young men.

Whoever won in the test of skill would wed his two daughters. The boys decided to participate in the test of skill.

Both the boys won in the test of skill. The king of the land now said "Only men of royal birth can marry my daughters."



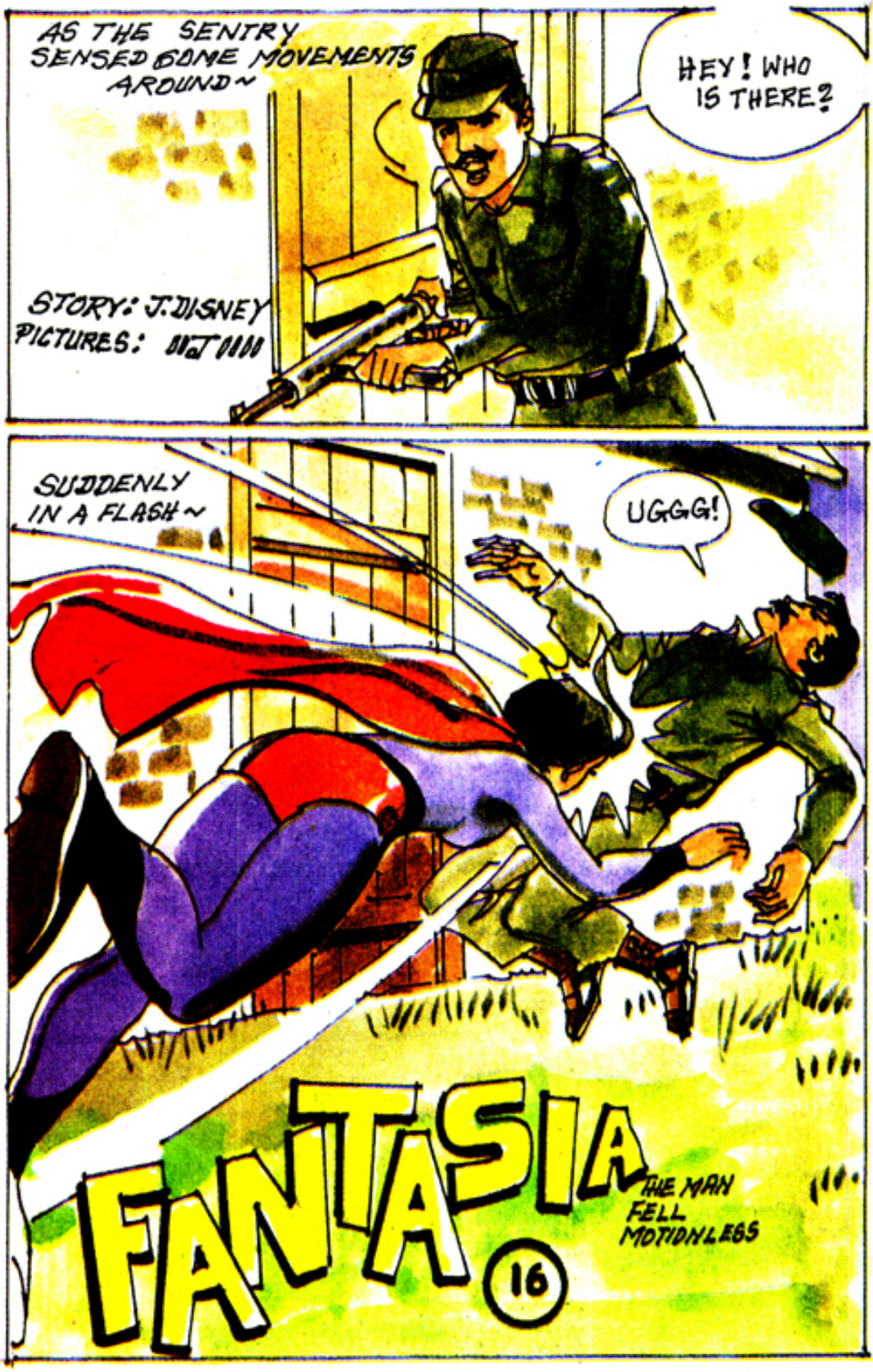
The boys revealed the truth about themselves. The king was immensely pleased. The wedding took place that evening. A few days later, the two princes with the help of the king, led a large army to fight the Shah. The Shah lost the battle and fled. The princes returned to their land and ruled their kingdom happily.

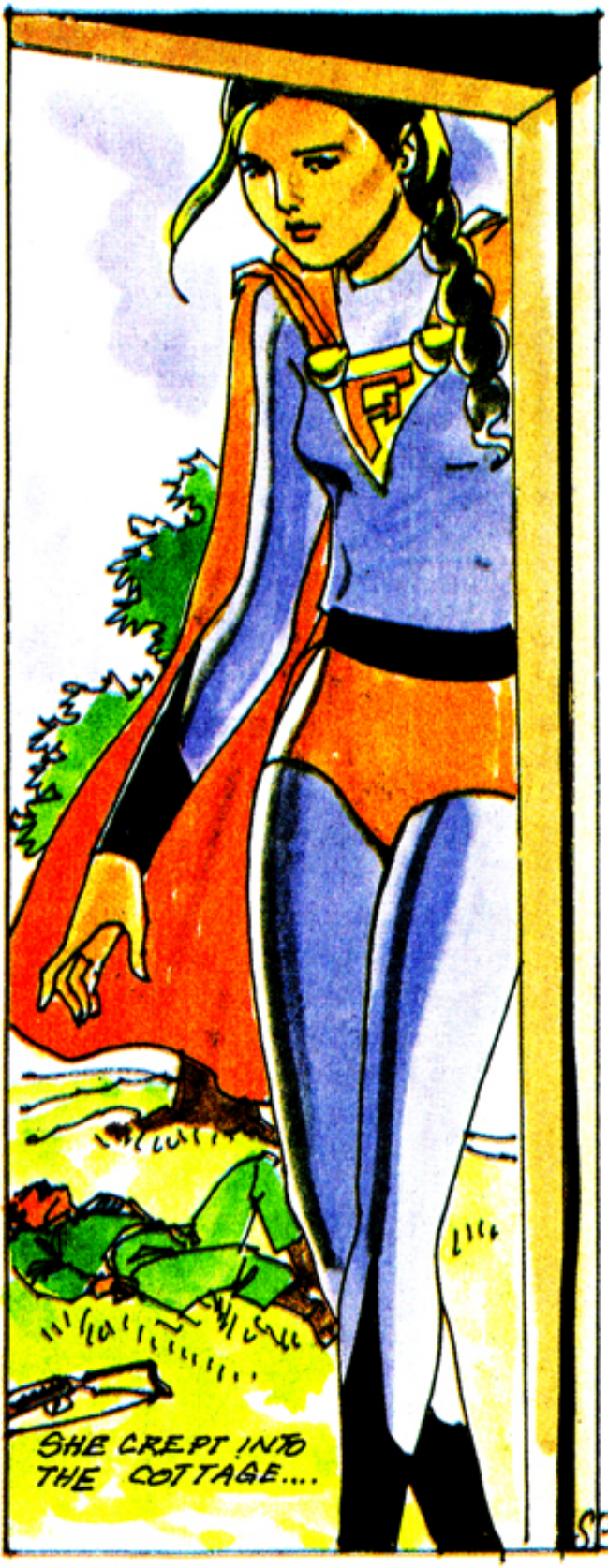
Mukul P. Joshi,
age 15,
V.N. Sule Guruji School,
Mumbai.

Robber 1 : What does money mean to you?

Robber 2 : I can't say much about it unless I loot a bank.

C.U. Spurthi, VII-B,
Presidency School,
Bangalore.


AS THE SENTRY SENSED SOME MOVEMENTS AROUND~
HEY! WHO IS THERE?
STORY: J. DISNEY
PICTURES: [illegible]
SUDDENLY IN A FLASH~
UGGG!
FANTASIA
16
THE MAN FELL MOTIONLESS



SEE ALSO PG:32

'Dogging' dogs

In Paris the French government had once imposed a tax on people who kept dogs. But many Frenchmen evaded

* A poodle

this tax by declaring that they had no canine pets. To outwit them the government employed some gypsies who knew how to imitate the call of dogs.

These gypsies would roam the streets of Paris at night calling like dogs. Dogs inside houses would invariably respond by barking. The gypsies would note the numbers of house from which the dogs barked. The very next day the owners of these houses would be confronted by the tax collector.

FACT-FILE

Unparalleled linguist

Majofont, a 19th century European scholar, was reputed to have known 60-70 languages. It included all the major European languages in addition to classical languages such as Arabic, Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Eithiopiac. He was said to have had a working knowledge of Sanskrit and Chinese too. At the age of 22 he was appointed as the Arabic teacher in an important European university.

Earthquake's aftermath

Earlier this century San Fransisco suffered a devastating earthquake. This earthquake led to a strange phenomenon which has baffled scientists ever since. Many people who were suffering from mental and nervous disorders were

cured by the vibrations caused by the earthquake.

A man had lost all control over his limbs and had been confined to the wheelchair for 15 years. Immediately after the earthquake he was found to be walking about as well as any able-bodied man. A doctor who was interned in a mental asylum recovered his mental balance after the quake. He suddenly found himself helping to rescue those trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings. He was talking and behaving quite normally.

Printing ink from tree

A tree named Amecarpus anacardium grows in India, Australia and the West Indies. Its fruits yield a juice that can be used as indelible ink in printing presses.

It can also be used to dye cloth and as varnish for furniture.

Starry facts

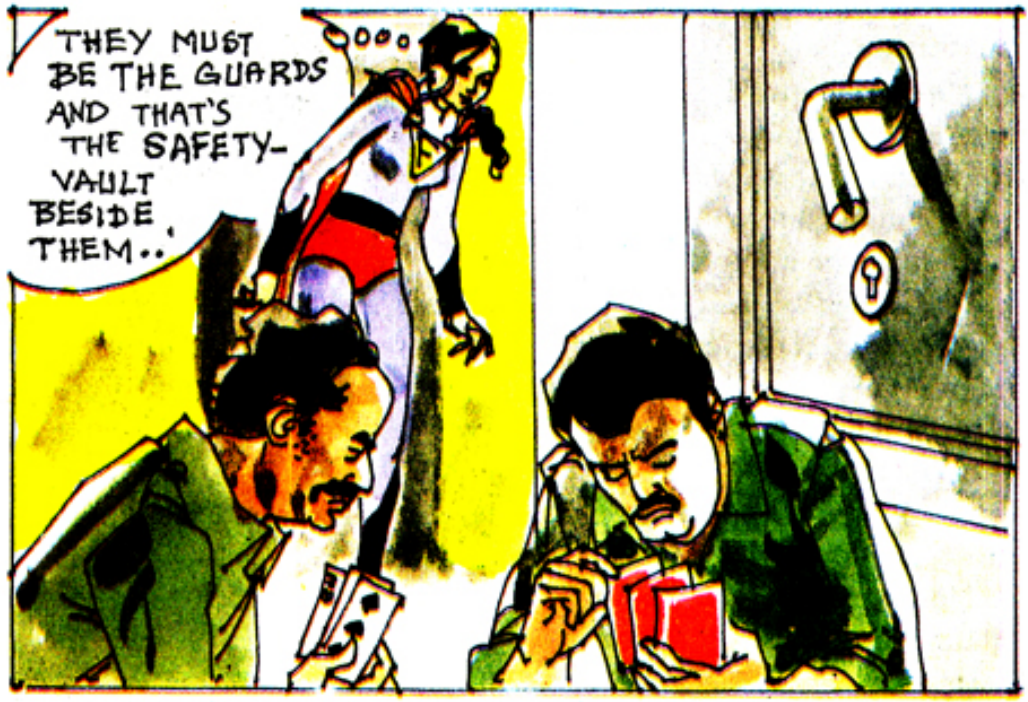
Some stars in the universe that are visible only through the most powerful telescopes are so far away from us that it takes 5,760 years for their light to reach us. Some other stars are even farther than these. Their light takes 500,000 years to reach us. Many times the stars would have burnt themselves out. Their light would, however, continue to travel and reach Earth for hundreds and thousands of years.

Easy speak in N. Pole

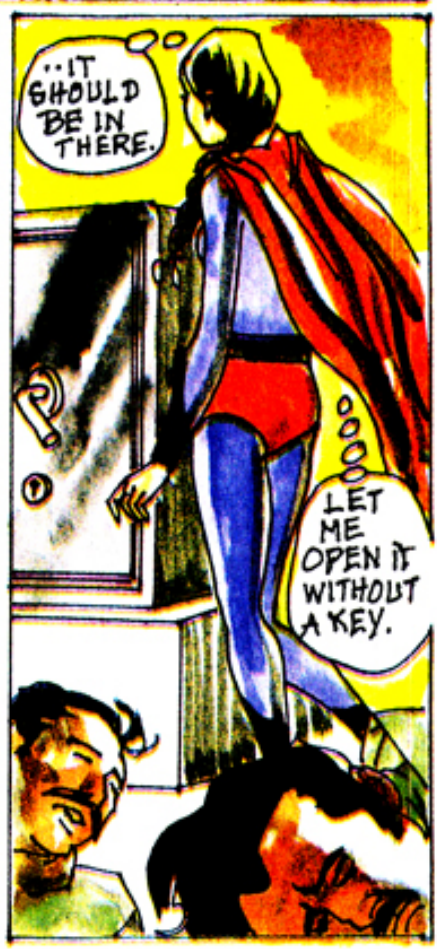
In the North Pole the air is so dense and cold that two people standing a mile apart can talk to each other without raising their voice and still be perfectly audible to each other.

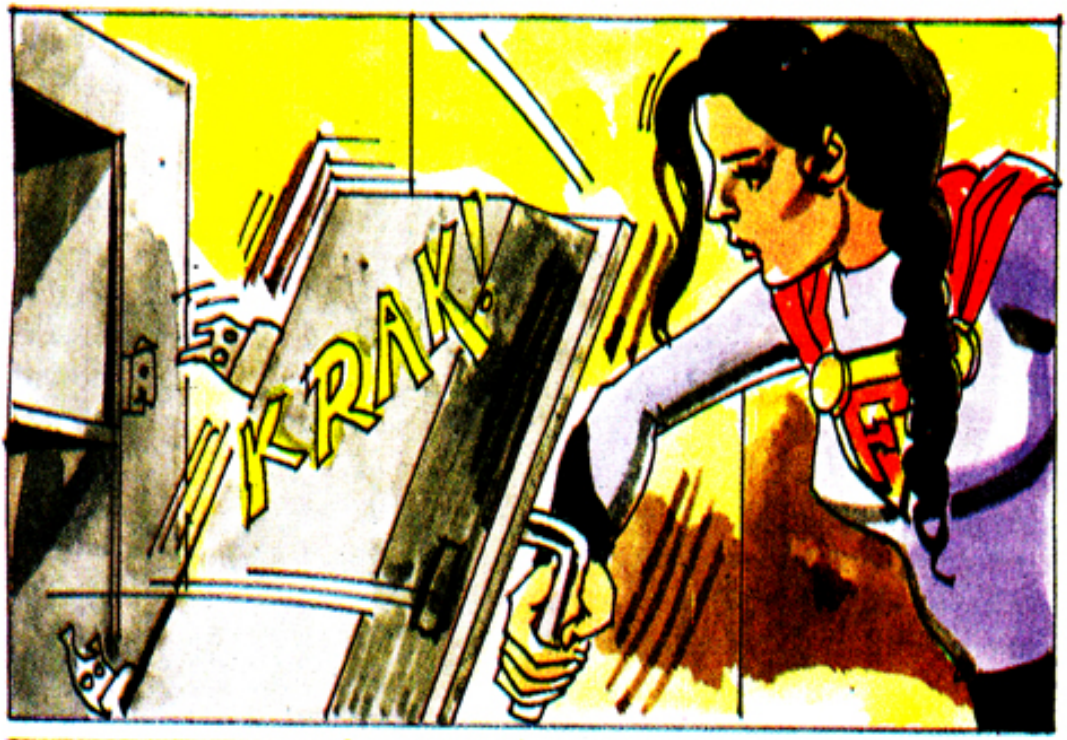
Velayudhan Features

* Huskies hauling an Eskimo sledge


THEY MUST BE THE GUARDS AND THAT'S THE SAFETY-VAULT BESIDE THEM..

NEXT MOMENT—
AHH!
OOOH!


..IT SHOULD BE IN THERE.
LET ME OPEN IT WITHOUT A KEY.


KRAK!

THERE IT IS...
BUT... WHERE IS ASHWANTH?

HEY YOU! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FRIEND?.
YOU MEAN— THE OWNER OF THAT MAGIC WRIST-WATCH?..
IF I TELL YOU MY LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER!
TO CONTINUE.

Jino

It was June 18, 1992. Jino, a week-old brown pup came to our house. He had a black spot on his forehead. He could barely walk and milk was his only food.

We loved to play with the little pup.

Jino was a brave puppy. One day, a large dog entered our garden. Jino chased him out. Another day, a stray dog chased Jino. Jino ran home. Not for long. The street dog came up to the gate and barked at Jino, as if challenging him to a fight. This was too much of a provocation for Jino. He fought with the stray dog.

Jino won the fight but he was bruised. Father took him to the vet and had his wounds dressed. The street dog was still spoiling for a fight. A week later Jino and the street dog had another fight.

Two weeks later we noticed that Jino kept scratching his back. Father took Jino to the vet. This time, I accompanied him. The vet said that Jino had contacted a contagious disease which had no cure. He said, Jino will have to suffer for the rest of his life.

I was very upset. Whatever the disease was, Jino suffered. Jino continuously scratched himself. Soon, his shiny coat was gone! The vet who monitored Jino said that it would be

better for the dog if he were put to sleep. We hesitated.

One day father's friend, a veterinary doctor visited us. He prescribed a medicine for Jino's disease. The medicine would control the disease but would not cure it, he said.

Jino's treatment began. Every week his skin was coated with an ointment. He was then given a bath. This was a difficult task because Jino disliked bathing in medicated water. However, a few weeks into the regime, he seemed to enjoy the bath routine. The treatment continued for a few months.

Once we ran out of the medicine and father travelled to Chennai to buy the ointment. Jino was showing signs of recovery too.

We were pleased.

One morning everything changed. Jino couldn't move. His legs were paralysed. We had to carry him to his kennel. My sister and I broke down. Father promised to take Jino to the vet. Since it was a working day, we had to go to school. On October 17, 1995, Jino died of cardiac arrest.

When my sister and I returned from school, we enquired about Jino. Father said that Jino had been admitted to the vet's clinic. He was being given special treatment.

He even called up the vet's clinic and spoke to the doctor as if to convince us that everything was fine.

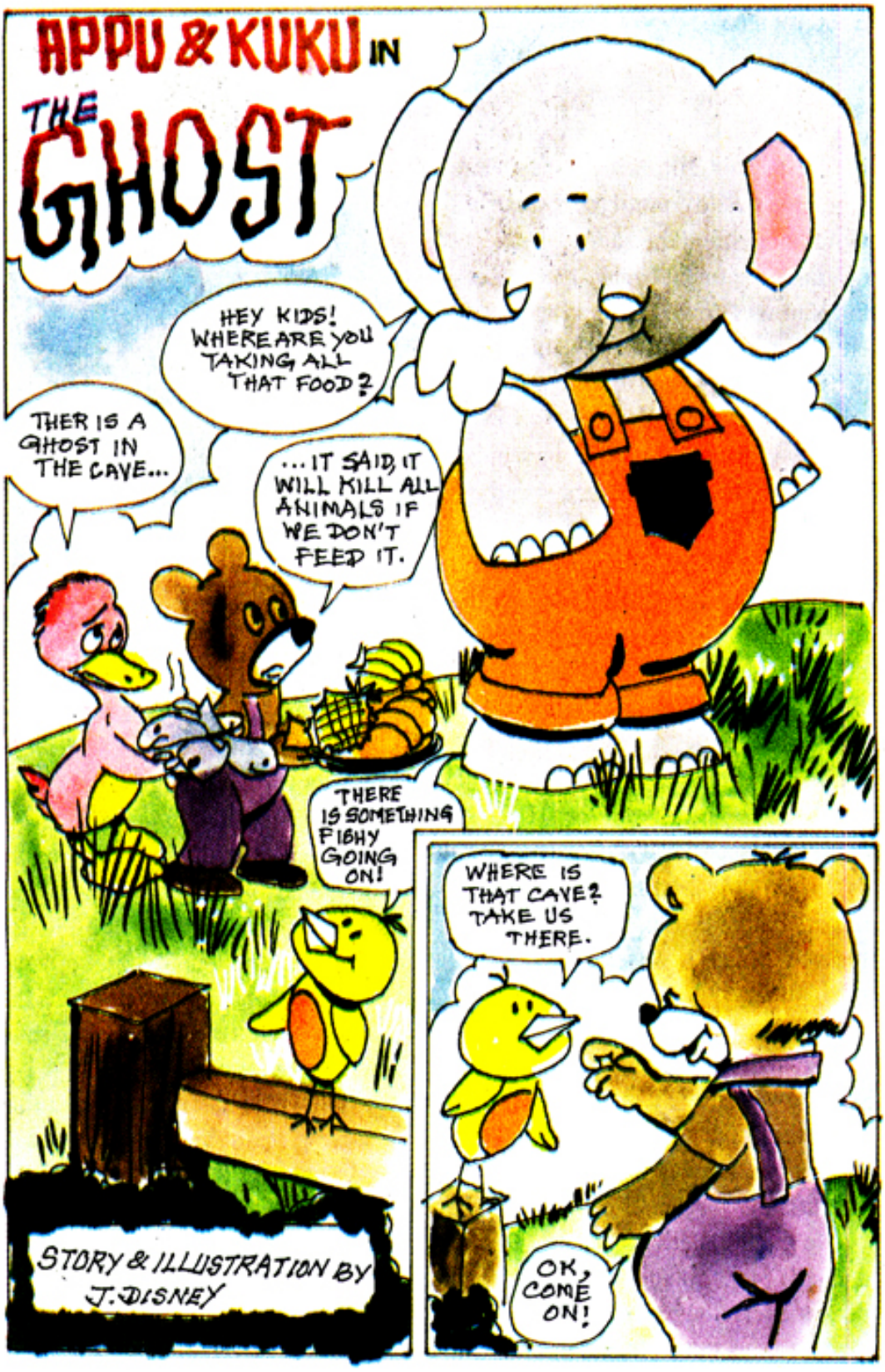
Two days later we learnt the truth. We brought Jino home and buried him in our backyard. We dug a large grave. Father made a bed of twigs and leaves. We laid Jino on it along with his plate, his medicine and his plastic ball.

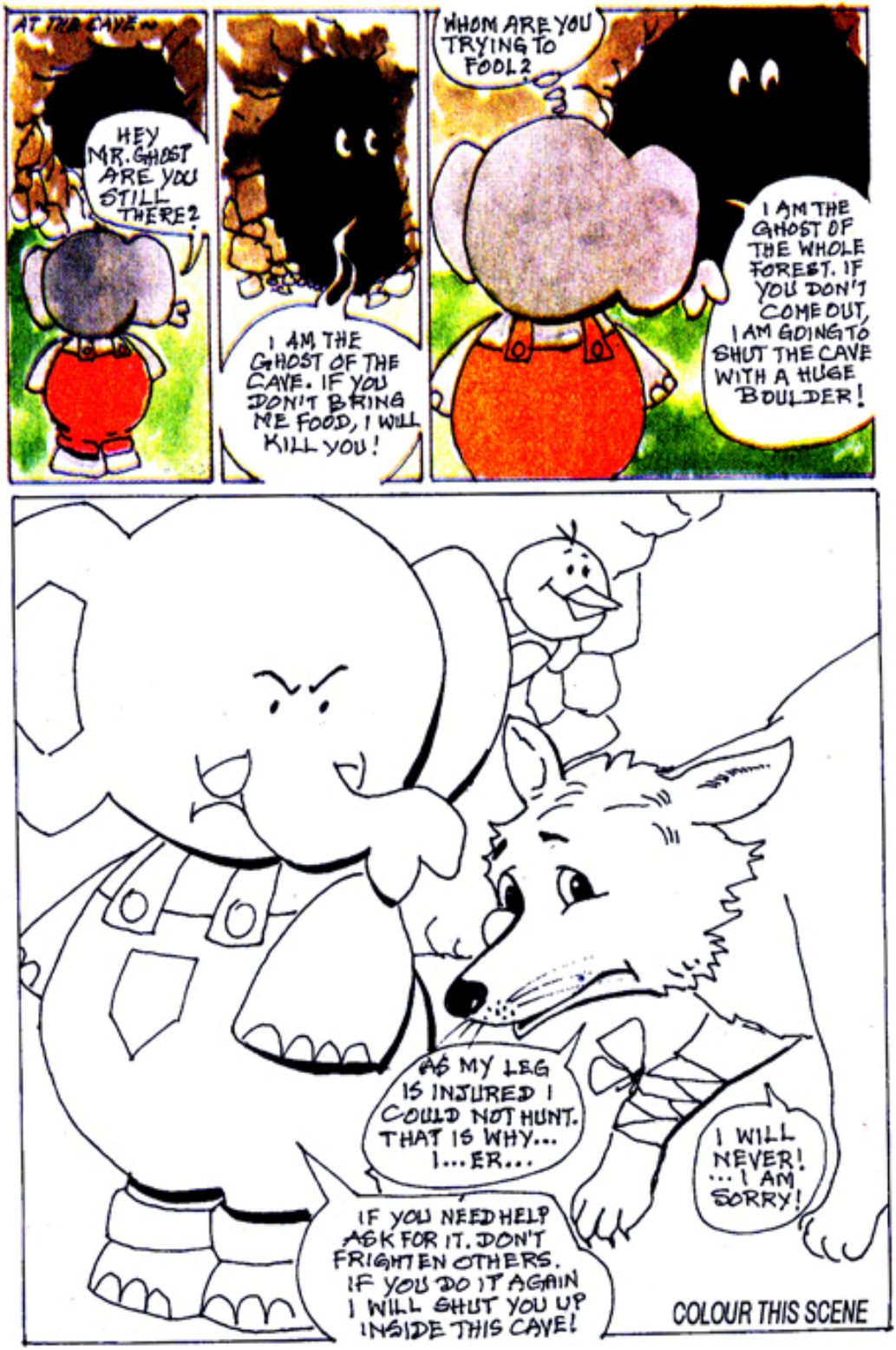
Mother suggested that we plant a coconut sapling on his grave. We planted a sapling. In a week's time the sapling withered away. Mother said, "Jino has forgotten us".

A few weeks later we noticed that the sapling had revived. It was as if Jino was saying thank you for all the affection he had received from us.

R.V. Rema Devi, age 13,
Kollam.

Dear Rema, pl. send in your full house address and the name of your school.


APPU & KUKU IN THE GHOST
HEY KIDS! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ALL THAT FOOD?
THER IS A GHOST IN THE CAVE...
...IT SAID, IT WILL KILL ALL ANIMALS IF WE DON'T FEED IT.
THERE IS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON!
WHERE IS THAT CAVE? TAKE US THERE.
OK, COME ON!
STORY & ILLUSTRATION BY J. DISNEY

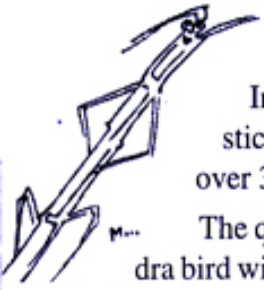

AT THE CAVE...
HEY MR. GHOST ARE YOU STILL THERE?
I AM THE GHOST OF THE CAVE. IF YOU DON'T BRING ME FOOD, I WILL KILL YOU!
WHOM ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL?
I AM THE GHOST OF THE WHOLE FOREST. IF YOU DON'T COME OUT, I AM GOING TO SHUT THE CAVE WITH A HUGE BOULDER!
AS MY LEG IS INJURED I COULD NOT HUNT. THAT IS WHY... I... ER...
I WILL NEVER! ... I AM SORRY!
IF YOU NEED HELP ASK FOR IT. DON'T FRIGHTEN OTHERS. IF YOU DO IT AGAIN I WILL SHUT YOU UP INSIDE THIS CAVE!
COLOUR THIS SCENE

THE WONDER

Here are some interesting facts about life around us.

Insects

The world's most massive living insect is the Goliath Beetle. It weighs upto 100 gms and may measure upto 10 cms in length.



The world's longest insect is an Indonesian species of stick insect which can be over 30 cms. long.

The queen Alexandra bird wing butterfly has the longest wings — a wing span of over 20 cms.

The smallest insect is the hairy winged beetle.

Crustaceans

If you cut a starfish into eight pieces, each piece regenerates as a new star fish.

Fishes

The largest bony fish is the ocean sunfish, which can weigh over 2000 kgs. An adult female lays upto 30,00,00,000 eggs in her life-time.

A fully grown electric eel can produce an electric discharge of upto 550 volts that can kill a man touching it.

Many deepsea fish emit lights which help them to find their prey and recognise their own kind.

Reptiles

The largest lizard is the Komodo dragon. It measures upto 3m long. It feeds on carrion, but will also kill large animals such as deer.

The only two poisonous lizards are the Gila Monster of California and the bearded lizard of Mexico.

A snake's sense of smell is helped by its flickering forked tongue. This picks up chemical particles from the air and transfers them to a pair of special sense organs, in the roof of the mouth called the Jacofious organ.

Some large snakes like Boa, Python, Anaconda etc., kill larger animals by coiling round them and preventing them from breathing.

OF NATURE

Birds

The Albatross has the largest wing span in birds - upto 3m from one wing tip to the other.

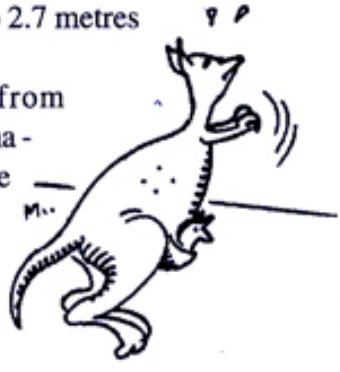
White-throated Swift is the world's fastest moving animal. It can fly at the speed of over 170 kms per hour.

Some humming birds can beat their wing over 90 times each second.

The longest migration is made by the Arctic tern, which flies all the way from the Arctic to Antarctica, a distance of about 17,700 kms.

Mammals

A large Kangaroo can leap over 9m (30 ft) long and can jump a fence of upto 2.7 metres (9 ft.) high.



Apart from humans, Armadillos are the only animals that fall prey to leprosy. They are used to help manufacture leprosy vaccine.

The Gheetah is the world's fastest land animal. Its maximum speed is upto 100 kms per hour over level ground.

Blue whale

It is the largest animal measuring upto 33m (110 ft) in length and weighing upto 100 tonnes. They need to eat about four tonnes of food every day. Out of water, the whale dies because its sheer weight prevents it from expanding its lung. In water, because of loss of weight as a result of buoyancy, it can breathe easily.

Plants

The world's largest flowers are those of Rafflesia, which measure about 1 m. (3 ft) across and weigh upto 7 kgs.

The California tree, the giant Sequoia, is so wide at its base that nine buses standing lengthwise can hide behind its trunk.

L.R. Phanindra,
Bangalore.

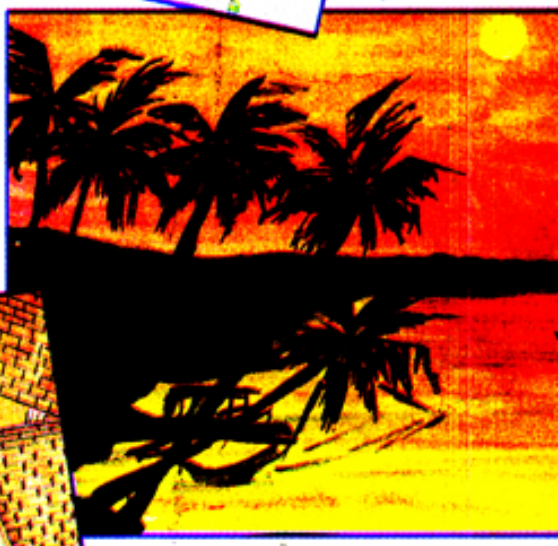
GOKULAM ART GALLERY

B. Sneha, age 11,
Sacred Heart Convent, Hubli.

Prabha Mallya, VIII-A,
St. Mary's HS, Goa.

A. Sivasubramanian, age 13,
Govt. Boys HSS, Chennai.

Vinita Venugopal, VII-B,
Saraswati Vidhyalaya, Nagpur.



Sidesh S. Barne, IX,
Vidhya Mandir, Goa.

D. Santosh Kiran, IX-A,
DAV School, Bhubaneshwar.

Aditi Garg, VII,
VDJS, Hissar.

B. Mohana Priya, X,
Annie Besant MS, Kanchipuram.

K. Madhavi, IX-C,
Hindu SSS, Chennai.

G.V. Sandeep, V,
Nalanda Vidhya Niketan,
Vijayawada.

Rachana P. Shetty, age 14,
S.H. Jondhale Vidhya Mandir,
Dombivili, Mumbai.

Dear
Mohana Priya
and
Santosh Kiran,
Please
send
your
house
address.

EXPERIENCE

A RUDE MAN

There is a park near my house. My friends and I play in this park. One day we noticed a man dressed in black. He stopped us and spoke to us harshly. He teased one of my friends. My friend ignored him at first. When matters came to a head, we lost our patience. Since he was much older and the care-taker of the park, we could do nothing.

Three days later I went to the park. The care-taker wasn't there. I noticed a crowd before a house near the park. To my shock, I saw that the care-taker was lying on the floor. He was dead. I asked a few people gathered there how he had died. Nobody knew. I couldn't bring myself to feel sorry for him. I still think he was a very rude man.

D. Johnson, VIII-C,
KV 2, Chennai.

KITTEN IN CLASS

The class was busy. The students were listening to the teacher who was explaining a sum. Suddenly there was a commotion. We saw a kitten run into the class. We forgot all about the teacher and called out to it, hoping to capture its attention. The kitten scampered out of the room when it saw the commotion. It had probably entered the next class because the students of that class too were excited.

The kitten ran back to our class. A boy in my class picked up the animal and dropped it down the window. We maintained a vigil for the kitten. It never returned. It had surely provided us some diversion.

B. Meera, II-B,
KV, Gill Nagar, Chennai.

GIRL POWER

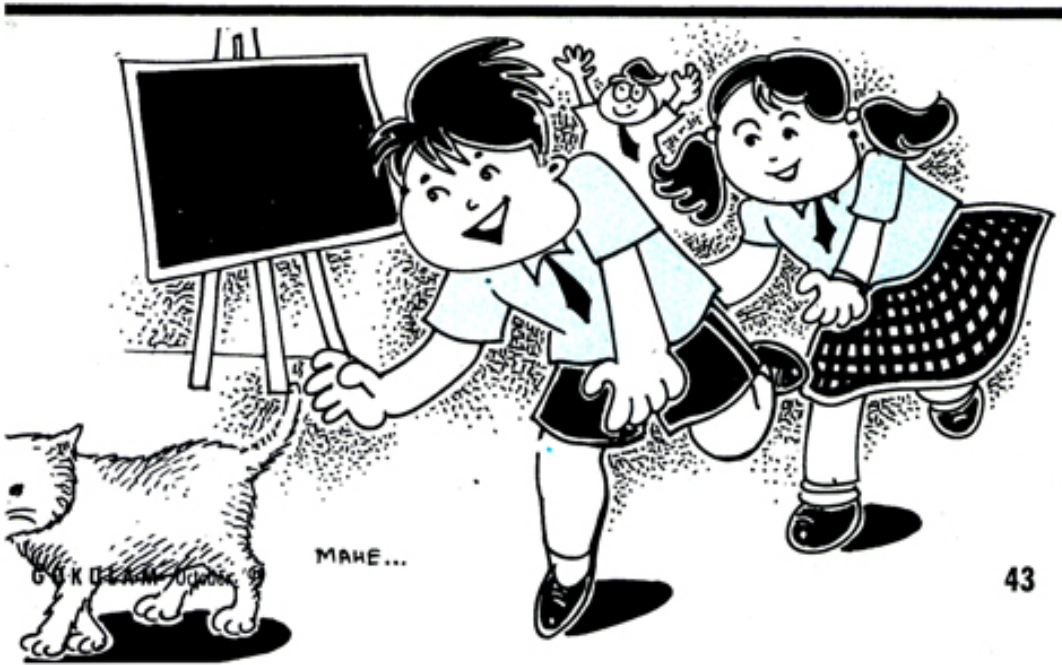
I am a member of the local girls' basket ball team. Every evening we practise at the local court near our club. One day a boy who stood near the compound wall of the ground began passing comments. We ignored him. The boy came everyday. His wolf-whistles irked us but we continued to ignore him. Two days later we came up with a plan to get rid of him.

The next evening when the boy arrived we pretended to ignore him. We jogged around the court. When we neared him, we picked up the hockey sticks which we had left there for this purpose and gheraoed him.

He was very frightened. We asked him his name. We asked him if he would try his wolf-whistle on us again. He shook his head, terrified. I began to feel sorry for him.

We warned him to keep off the ground and told him that if he ever repeated his act, we would beat him up. The boy promised to leave us alone and said he would never indulge in eve-teasing. We let him go.

P.R. Smitha, VIII-B,
Cottonhill Girls' HS,
Thiruvananthapuram.



WHY DOES YOUR PET LOVE YOU?

In today's world of flats and multi-storeyed buildings pets are not a common sight. Most building associations and societies do not permit pets. Any animal can be kept as a pet. Chinese children along the panda-rich regions often come across injured pandas. They bring the pandas home and nurse them back to health. The pandas are then returned to their habitat.

Every child who grows up on a farm will have his favourite animal. If you have a cat or a dog at home you will probably spend more time with it than with your friends.

Apart from ducks, calves and lambs, pigs, frogs, beetles and snakes can also be pets! A pet teaches you to share, to love and care for those around you. In circuses, employees often build a rapport with elephants; bears are also common pets.

By bringing up a pet, you learn about its habitat, its habits, food and its ways. You learn first-hand how a pet cares for its young ones.

Most pet cats are believed to have come from the wild cats of Egypt. If a cat is well-fed and looked after it will save bird-life too. Only starved cats prey on birds and chicks. A well-

looked after pet cat may actually help bird life.

Dogs were probably the first tamed animals. There are a variety of breeds to choose from. Dogs can be inter-bred within a breed or outside its breed. Stray dogs found on our streets are not of any particular breed.

High breed dogs are expensive to rear as pets.

Birds too make excellent pets. If you can have both male and female of a bird species as pets, you will get to learn first hand how the species behaves in the wild. Often you can see birds sharing domestic duties. The male bird may even feed the female bird when she is incubating. The chicks will depend totally on their parents for their food.

Goldfish are easy to rear. They can survive on dried bread crumbs, bits of earthworms and water fleas.

Creatures like toads, frogs and turtles are easy to rear. Frogs need to sit beside or in shallow ponds to survive. Turtles can be placed in cardboard boxes. Place a bowl of water for your pet turtle. The toad needs only damp soil. Frogs and

A strange pet

* Take good care of your pet

toads do not drink water. They take water through their skin. Frogs and toads will snap at their food. They will not touch the food that is not moving. They live on insects, earthworms and other small frogs.

Many people bring up bear cubs. However, once they grow up they are handed over to the zoo. Some people take on owls and hawks as pets. Owls thrive on chicken from the farm and on large insects and small prey.

Hawks love mice and ground squirrel. Monkies, deer, koalas, mongoose and ant-eaters have all been popular as pets. Ancient Egyptians tamed hyenas and baboons besides cats. Romans loved frogs and horses. They tamed apes who could ride dogs and drive chariots. English knights of the Middle Ages tamed hawks.

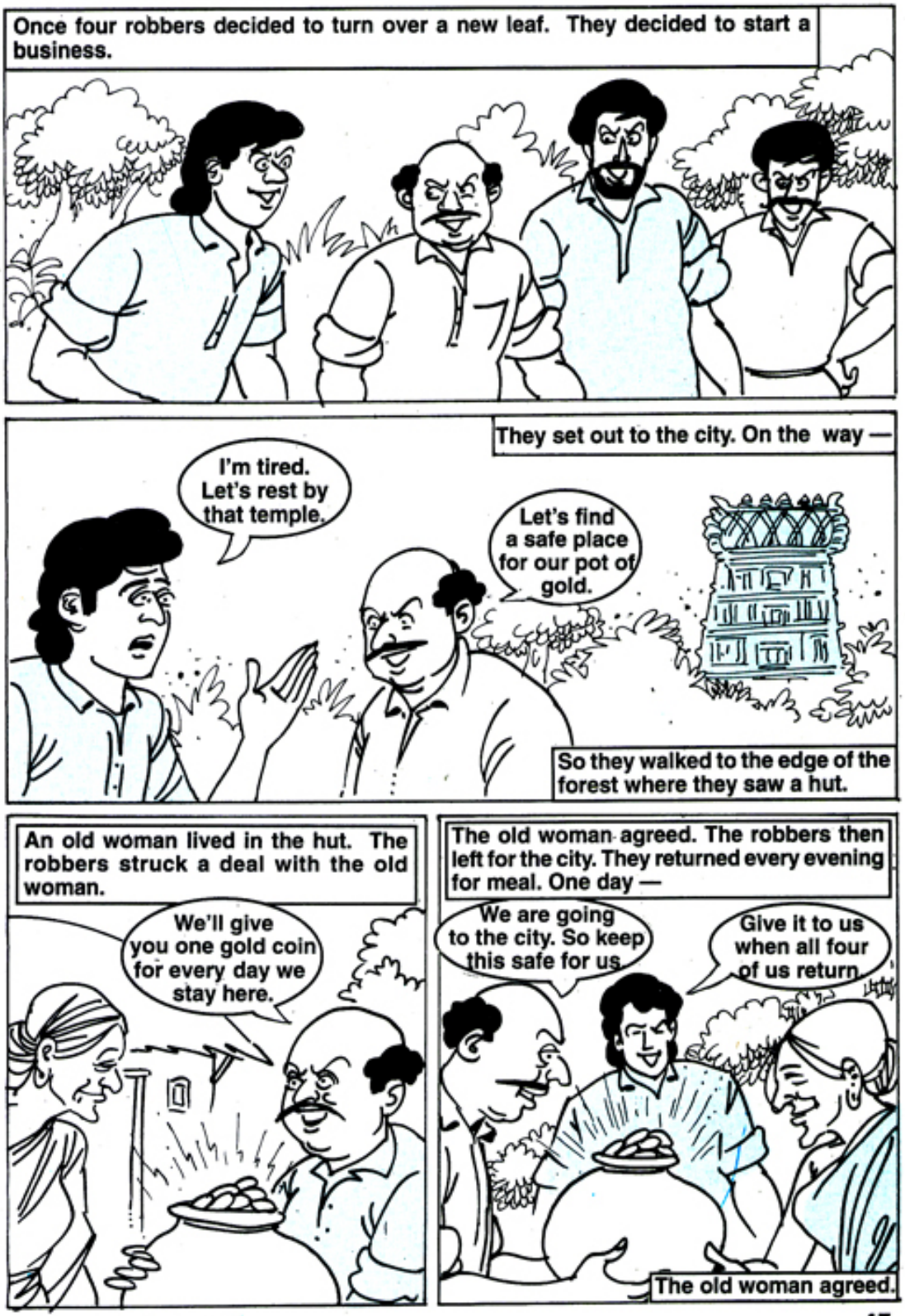
In India, princesses and princes have had pigeons, swans, deer and tigers as pets. Chinese kings reared

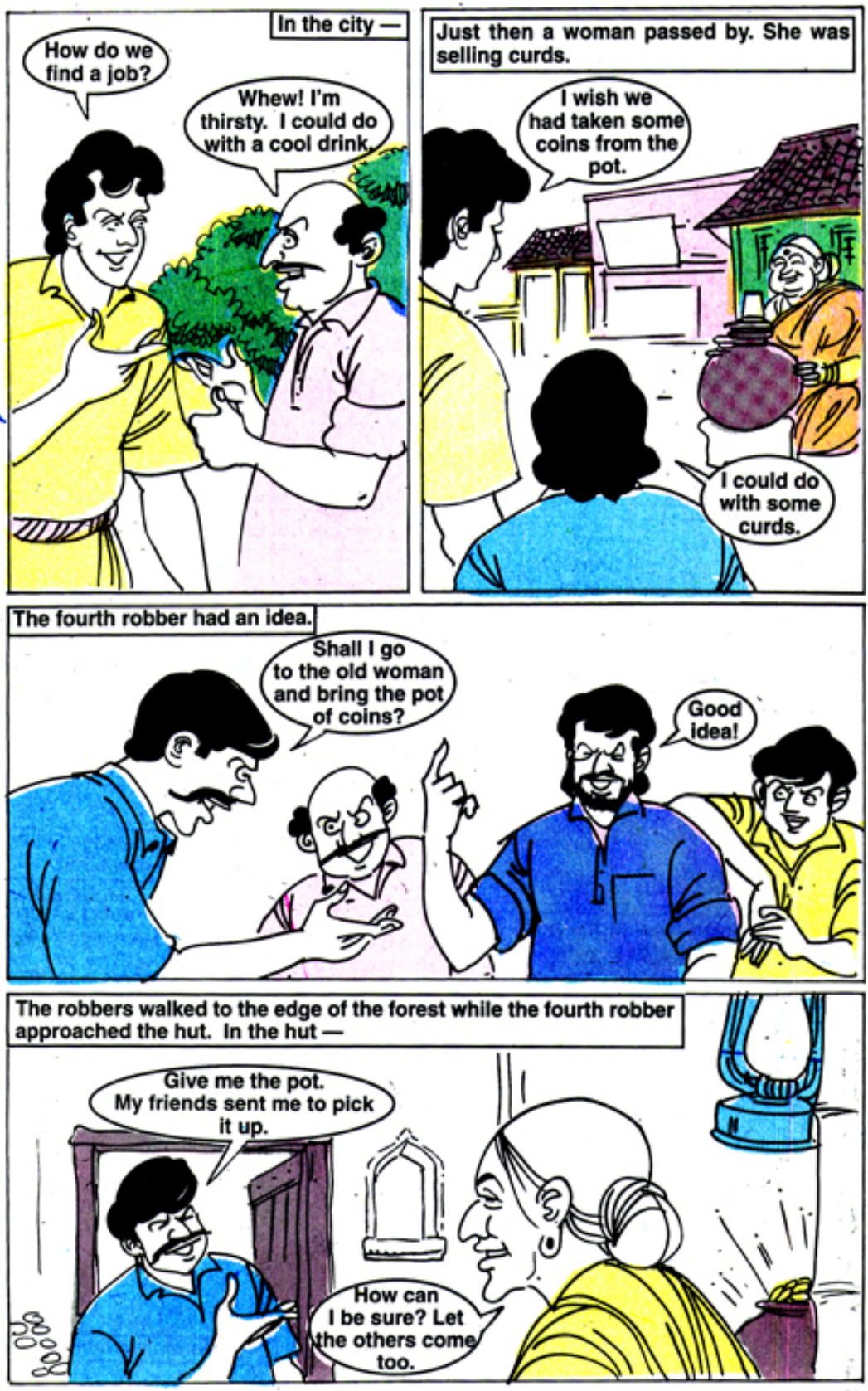
giant pandas as pets. Man has often looked to wild animals because they are a challenge to tame.

If you have been rearing a puppy or a kitten since its birth and if you leave the pet with its original parents you will find that your pet will reject its parents and return to you! Your pet will be that loving and faithful to you!

THE JUSTICE

Story by : G. Madhumathi, age 15,
Corp. Girls' HSS, Chennai.
Illustration : SASI




In the city —
How do we find a job?
Whew! I'm thirsty. I could do with a cool drink.
Just then a woman passed by. She was selling curds.
I wish we had taken some coins from the pot.
I could do with some curds.
The fourth robber had an idea.
Shall I go to the old woman and bring the pot of coins?
Good idea!
The robbers walked to the edge of the forest while the fourth robber approached the hut. In the hut —
Give me the pot. My friends sent me to pick it up.
How can I be sure? Let the others come too.

The old woman refused to let the robber take the pot.
Alright! They are sitting outside. Ask them.
Meanwhile I'll escape with the pot through the back door.
The old woman asked the other three men if they had sent their friend to pick up the pot.
Yes. We did send him. Please give the pot to him.
The old woman returned to her hut and handed over the pot to the fourth robber.
Why is our friend taking so long?
They entered the hut.
They realised that their friend had escaped with the gold coins.
He has cheated on us.
The old woman is also involved.
The robbers decided to take the matter to the panchayat.

At the panchayat the old woman told the gathering what had happend.
Old woman, you have wronged these men. You have cheated these men's faith in you.
The woman was in tears. Just then, Mariyathai Raman passed that way.
What is the matter, old woman?
I have been wrongly accused.
She told Mariyathai Raman everything. He asked her to meet him at the king's court the next day. He then asked the three robbers also to be present in the court.
We want our pot of gold back.
In the court —
Now that you want your pot back, bring the fourth man to the court.
The old woman will not hand over the pot to you unless all the four of you come together.
The robbers had been outwitted. The king rewarded Mariyathai Raman handsomely.

DO YOU KNOW THEM?

Here are a few well-known fairy tale characters. Can you name them?

1. This prince had to have his meals and sleep on the bed in a palace. Only then would he become himself. Who was he?

2. This young girl could not spin, she was a miller's daughter. Name her.

3. The girl whom the shoe fitted could marry the prince. Who is the girl?

4. He could do anything that the king asked him to do. Who was he?

5. The fairies gave her gifts on her christening day. Name her.

6. The prince used her hair as a ladder. What are we talking about?

7. This soldier had to listen to a witch.

8. She pleaded with the hunters to save her life. Who was she?

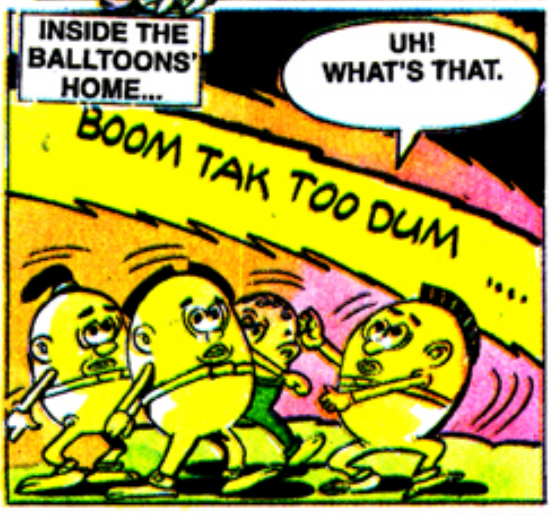
9. This man hid the gold he found among the pile of wood he had collected. Who was he?

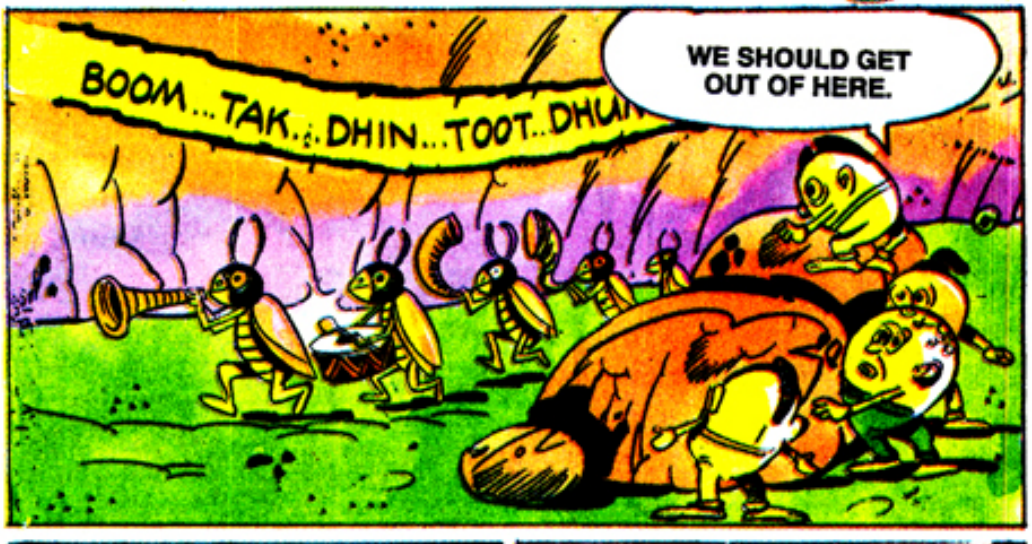
Westor Mathew D'Silva, age 12, Milages Eng. Med. HSS, Santekatte.

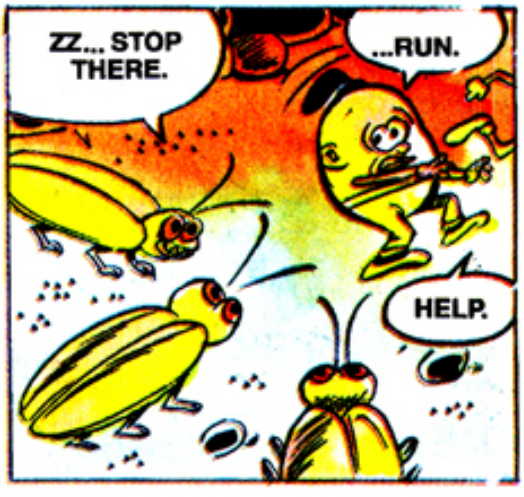
Answers : 1. The Frog Prince; 2. Rumpelstilein; 3. Cinderella; 4. The Brave Little Tailor; 5. Sleeping Beauty; 6. Rapunzel; 7. The Tinder Box; 8. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs; 9. Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

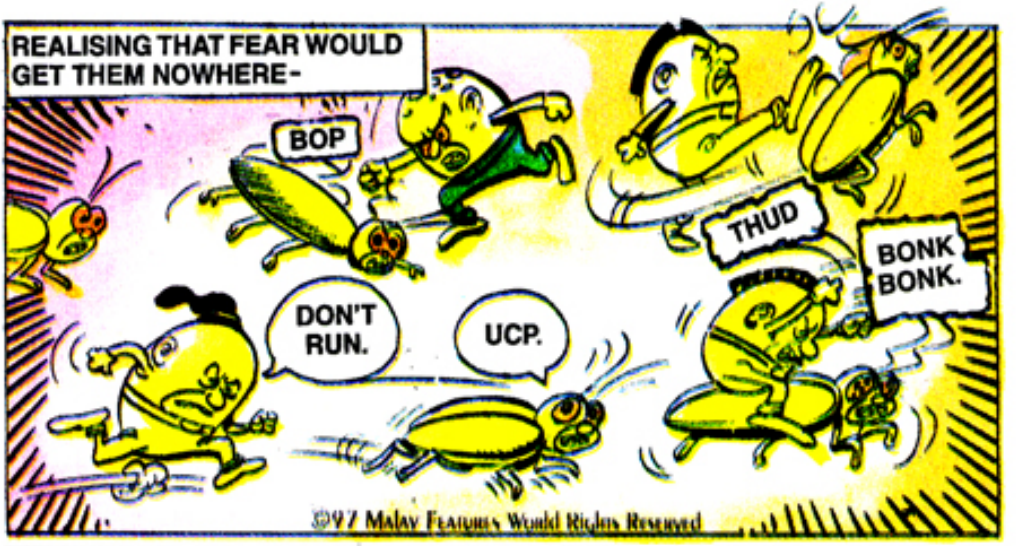
BALLTOONS

SCRIPT - CHALAM ART - CJ ROY 11








REALISING THAT FEAR WOULD GET THEM NOWHERE-
BOP
DON'T RUN.
UCP.
THUD
BONK BONK.
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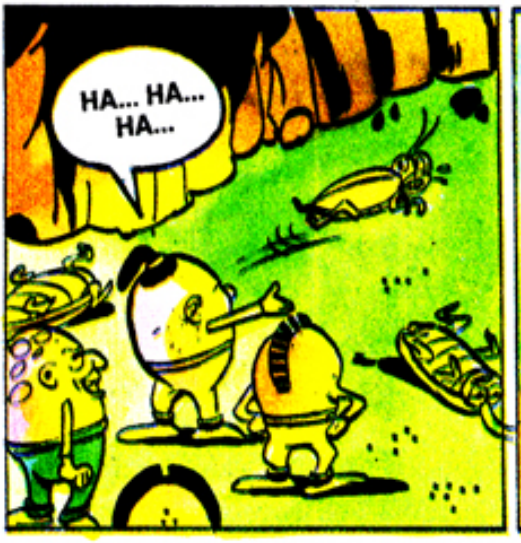
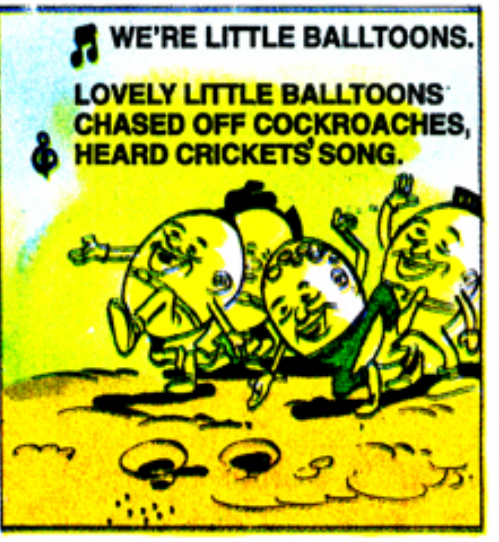

HA... HA... HA...

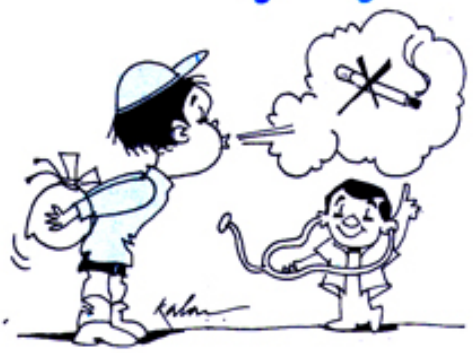

WE'RE LITTLE BALLTOONS.
LOVELY LITTLE BALLTOONS CHASED OFF COCKROACHES, HEARD CRICKETS' SONG.

MEANWHILE-
THERE, THE GUYS WHO TIED UP OUR BROTHERS!

DON'T LET THEM GO.
YEOW.

TO CONTINUE

Snippets



Saved from smoke

Dutch school children are being offered money to leave cigarettes alone upto their sixteenth year under a state-financed scheme. These children would get around $ 190 or a trip worth the equivalent.

The deal is valid only among groups. Children who sign up between the ages of 12 and 16 must undergo nicotine breath tests to ensure that they really are complying with the rule and teachers or coaches will also check them up.

Mystery beast

A mysterious creature that looked like a giant python was sighted in a reservoir in southern China.

Workers at the reservoir reported sighting the creature, known locally as "water-monster", nearly 10 times since it first appeared in 1985. The water monster was described to look like a python, had two horns, two forefeet with claws and green eyes, as large as duck eggs.

Antiques discovered

Antique stone sculptures were discovered from a paddy field in a village of South Tripura. The statues were — one each of hanuman, the Buddha engrossed in meditation, a shiv linga and a four-armed Ganesh. They belonged to 8 A.D.

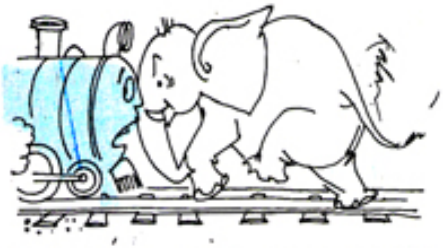
Old cheese

In 1987, a 1400 year old piece of cheese was dug up in Ireland - and it was edible! Search is on for the crackers to go with it.

Unlucky train

In Bangladesh, a driver found out the hard way that trains shouldn't mess with an elephant.

After a baby elephant was knocked



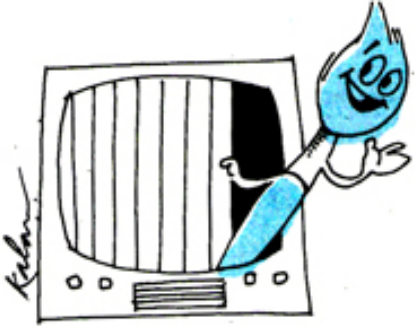
off railroad tracks by a train, his mother got on to the tracks to block the next train. She then destroyed that train's engine, ramming it for 15 minutes. Stranded passengers waited five hours until a new train came to their rescue. Both elephants walked away unharmed.

Hail kangaroos!

Australia has only a population of 15 million humans. On the other hand the population of kangaroos is 19 millions!

No colour TVs

When CBS of the US broadcast the



world's first colour TV show on June 25, 1951, there was only one problem. No one owned a colour TV set — except those at CBS.

Paper money

The Chinese were the first in the world to use paper money. Thousands of years ago, people in China used coins shaped like knives.

Fireflies, please?

Men travelling through dense tropical forests often collect fireflies in jars and use them as 'lanterns'. Women in Cuba sometimes pin live fireflies on their gowns or hang them around their necks on chains as decoration.

Suresh K. Anjum,
Calcutta.

Snippets

SULTAN'S CANDY

You need :

1 cup cake (muffin)
Thick grape syrup
Fresh cream
A cherry

Method :

Place the cake in a pudding bowl. Pour the syrup on it. Put the cream on top. Place a cherry on top of the cream. Serve chilled.

Prithi, age 8,
Vidya Niketan, Bangalore.

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VIEWPOINT

'FREE MELA'

I noticed a long queue outside an ice-cream parlour. The crowd was spilling over to the road. Traffic rules were given the go by. Outside the parlour read a board - "Free-Free-Free- Buy two and get one free". There is nothing wrong in going after items given free but then can a person eat all the three ice-creams then and there? Surely, they would melt under the hot sun even before he can carry them to a shade and eat it!

H. Srinandini, Std. IXA,
ASSISI MHSS, Chennai.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Animals are also a part of the wealth of our nation. They are nature's gift and it is our duty to take care of them. Human beings are more often than not cruel to animals. How often do we see the bullock cart driver beat up his bull to make it go faster? Isn't this reason enough to ban bullock carts or carts drawn by animals?

B. Bhavya, Std. IX,
B.V. Reddy SSS, Chittoor.

MY COUNTRY, INDIA

I happened to read on a wall the following :

INDIA — It Never Develops In Anything.

Why do boys have such a poor opinion of our country? Here is what I feel India should be -

INDIA — It's Now Developing In All (spheres).

V. Nallasivam, Std. VIIIA,
Tirunelveli.

Dear Nallasivam, pl. send in the name of your school.

WE NEED HOMEWORK

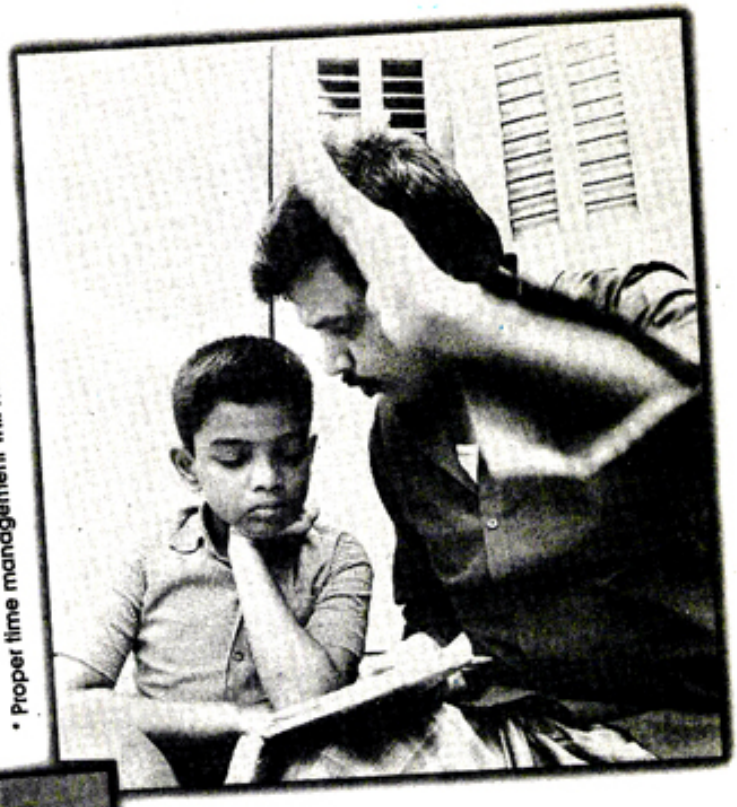
Homework is a must. It improves handwriting and helps to memorise lessons easily. We also learn to spell long words correctly.

Doing exercises at home helps to do extra exercises in the class. Isn't it better than watching useless programmes on the TV?

S. Sashidharan, Std. VIA,
HSSS, Chennai.

WE NEED EXAMS

I differ from the views expressed by S. Roopa and P. Kanchana (June '99). Don't we see students who have wasted their lives by lazing around? Exams keep us on our toes. Instead of discussing the dresses and jewels worn by the heroes and heriones of movies, if we spent our time studying we would make a better future for ourselves.



• Proper time management will make exams easy to face

Exams do not play spoilsport with our childhood. If reading of text books is boring then we can supplement them with outdoor activities, video tapes, excursions, etc.

That a student should be adjudged by his/her participation in class activities does not hold water. What if the student's performance is dismal in studies? How can a teacher judge a student without exams?

Extra-curricular activities have not taken a back seat in the assessment of a student. Parents should not use coercion to make their children study. If they encouraged a child's talent, then the child will perhaps shine in his chosen field. That way, students won't view exams with fear.

Basil George Verghese,
Std. XI,
KV No. 2. Bangalore.

ROLE OF STUDENTS

India's vast student population can play a significant role in nation building. During the Independence movement students participated actively and in large numbers. If students of today realised that agitations, sit-ins, strikes and demonstrations will not yield the desired results they may probably take a different path.

A disciplined student body will grow up to be a responsible citizen body. Countries like Japan, Germany and China are today powerful nations because their students imbibed the need for discipline at a very young age.

Students can volunteer help during natural calamities and disasters. This will help them build their character and make them better citizens.

L. Sheeba, age 15, Mettupalayam.

TIME TO WAKE UP

Many people still believe that by merely performing a 'puja' a person may be cured of his ailment. How can a 'pujari' who performs

a rite save a person or treat his illness? The 'pujari' takes advantage of these people's foolish beliefs and extorts huge sums of money.

Finally, the sick man loses both his wealth and life! If gods could cure diseases why should students spend a lifetime studying to become doctors? We must educate the poor and gullible so that they can rise above such beliefs.

S. Anulekha, age 16,
NSS College,
Thiruvananthapuram.

BEHIND BARS

It is unfair to cage animals. They make for excited viewing by people. They often irritate these poor creatures. If we were forced to stay in cages for even a day won't we rebel? Should we not make provisions for large forests so that our wild animals can enjoy a free life?

Caged animals do not breed either, because the atmoshpere is not conducive. If we developed sanctuaries we will be doing the animals a good turn.

Shalini, age 13,
DAV School, Chennai.

DEGREE IN CRICKET

What a man — Bradman

In a upcountry game in Australia, Sir Donald Bradman once made a century in only 22 deliveries. He made 100 of the 102 runs scored in three eight-ball overs!

The runs were as follows :

Over 1 : 6,6,4,2,4,4,6,1

Over 2 : 6,4,4,6,6,4,6,4

Over 3 : 1,6,6,1,1,4,4,6

(in older days an Australian over consisted of 8 balls)

Laker's Feat

Jim Laker of England took 19 Australian test wickets for just 90 runs at Old Trafford in 1956. The only other wicket was taken by his spin partner, Tony Lock.

Youngest 'king' — Raza

The record for the youngest test cricketer is held by Hasan Raza of Pakistan. He was only 14 years and 227 days old when he played his first test match vs Zimbabwe in Faisalabad in 1996 - 97.

Astle's Day

Lisa Astle was selected to the New Zealand's women's cricket team on the same day that her brother Nathan Astle made his test debut against Zimbabwe.

B.A. in Cricket?

Did you know that there is a university in England which offers cricket as a degree course?

Odd Balls

* In 1912, the Australian, Victor Tumper hit a ball out of the ground and broke the window of a house. The broken window has still not been mended.

* Robin Martar bowled three deliveries in an over with three different balls. Two balls were considered lost after the batsman hit it out of the ground.

Nivas R, Std. XI,
BHEL MHSS, Trichy.

CHAMELEON

The chameleon is a curious-looking lizard which can change colour at short notice. It is a slow-moving, day-active reptile that lives in the scrub jungles, where it spends most of its time on trees, attached to a twig or branch.

It is a distinctive lizard. It has a long, club-shaped tongue, a watchspring-like tail, bulging, independently movable eyes and pliers-like feet. The body is covered with granules studded with tubercles down the back. The head bears a helmet-like knob. The feet are like a pair of tongs with their digits arranged in opposing bundles. The chameleon is an excellent climber thanks to its feet and tail which are modified as clasping organs but is slow in movement.

The tongue is long, almost about the length of the animal. Most spectacular, however, is its ability to move each of its eyes wholly independent of the other. The animal can see forward with one eye, while looking sideways or backward with the other eye. The eyes rotate ceaselessly in all directions and stop rotation when the eyes are focussed on the prey.

A chameleon can change its colour from green and brown to different shades of yellow, white and black so swiftly that it is nearly impossible to tell the colour of the

reptile precisely. Every species of chameleon has a basic colour and pattern in keeping with its habitat.

The colours of a chameleon are dependent largely upon the light, climate or the emotional state of the animal. The colour has nothing to do with the background nor is it a sort of protective camouflage as is generally believed.

The chameleon lives mainly upon insects. It preys on live insects. Some chameleons lay eggs while others produce live young. When picked up, the chameleon hisses and inflates its body. Its bite is harmless but painful.

In India, only one species of chameleon, Chameleo zeylanicus is found. It is uncommon as it prefers dense forests.

T.S.N. Murthy,
Chennai.

THE WISE GOAT

The heat was oppressive. A wolf was on the prowl. He hadn't eaten for days and he was very hungry. He was hoping to catch a lamb or if his luck held, a large goat that would see him through for a day or two.

The wolf was lucky. He spotted a goat grazing near the foot of a cliff. He forgot himself and let out a low growl. The goat which heard the wolf, broke into a run.

The wolf gave the goat a stiff chase. The goat managed to climb the cliff. The goat was breathless. The wolf stood below the cliff, looking up at the goat. The goat said, "You silly wolf, instead of chasing me why don't you just open your mouth and I will jump into it."

The silly wolf opened his mouth wide. The goat jumped down, not into the wolf's mouth but on the wolf's head. The wolf fell unconscious under the weight of the goat. The goat made good its escape.

M. Muhil, age 10,
Loyola School, Chennai.

GRANDPA'S

When father announced that we would spend our summer holidays at his ancestral village, we were pleased.

The train halted at Poondurai station. I jumped out and immediately spotted Govindu, grandpa's farm hand and Kannan, our cousin.

"Appa," said I, "Let's walk home. Mother and the children can come by the bullock cart."

But father said, "No. Get inside. Your granny will be waiting for us. She will not eat till we reach home."

The ride by cart was pleasant. The early morning sounds mingled with the bells around the bull's neck. Govindu filled us in with the happenings in the village. He said a surprise awaited us.

As the cart drew up before the gate to our home, I noticed the fallow field opposite to the house had been converted into a tennis court.

"Wow! Now we can play tennis here," I exclaimed.

"Where's grandpa?"

"He has gone to Trichy but will be back in the evening," granny said.

After a sumptuous meal which we ate from plantain leaves and a good siesta, we decided to roam around the village for a headcount of our friends who had returned here for a holiday. Quite a few children visited the village regularly during the holidays. We were eager to meet them.

Enroute to Sambu thatha's 'light house' we saw his grand-children. Our grandpa was intelligent, soft-spoken and never tolerated voilence. Sambu thatha was voluble, skilled in martial arts and enjoyed shooting and archery besides swimming.

He had won many prizes even in

shooting with rifles. He had served as a colonel in the army.

He called out to us. "I am going to Manganallur lake for a swim. Want to join me?"

Granny did not like our going for a swim. So, Kannan told him that it was time we returned home since grandpa was expected by the

WAGER

evening train.

"Ok, Ok, let us go for a walk," Sambu thatha said.

Sambu thatha and grandpa had been bench-mates at school. He recalled his school days as we fell in step. "Your grandpa always makes a wager. He would say, 'The maths master will not come. So, we will have two free periods.' I would not believe him. For I would have seen the teacher at the school. If I refused to believe him he would say, 'If I win you must do my biology chart.' I would agree. He would turn out to be correct. The maths teacher would have come to hand over the leave letter and Cheenu would have noticed him."

"He hasn't changed at all," pitched in cousin Mani.

"I would like him to lose out to me at least once," Sambu thatha said. "Do you have any ideas?"

"We will think it over," said Kannan.

Sambu thatha's grandsons, Aravind and Anand, played chess with our grandpa. Grandpa owned large mango groves while Sambu thatha owned 200 coconut palms. Fruits and vegetables were regularly exchanged. Sometimes, we would pack large baskets of food and picnic in the nearby woods. My granny's 'Puliyodarai'* and Champaka patti's 'bisibela bath'* were delicacies much relished.

Once we visited a farm near

* Delicacies made from rice

Woriyur. Sambu thatha said, "Do you remember 'Tiger' our maths master from standard ninth?"

"Who can forget him?" exclaimed grandpa.

"Once he wanted us to solve 50 sums as homework," Sambu thatha told us. "Cheenu and I decided to workout a few problems during the last hour of the school day.

"Our PT master was very particular that all of us should attend the PT hour. PT hour was the last class of the day. Cheenu and I bunked the PT hour. We hid behind a few trees and worked out the problems.

"Suddenly we heard our PT master whistle. Someone had played Judas. I scaled the school compound wall. Cheenu followed suit. I fell on a sand dune and a glass piece scraped the skin on my back. A scar still marks the wound."

"No, Sambu. We bruised our legs and an iron nail hurt your toe. It was not a piece of glass," said grandpa.

"I think you are suffering from a loss of memory," said Sambu thatha.

"Not at all, Sambu," retorted grandpa.

"I'll prove that I'm right. If I win you must take us all to Kallanai for a picnic," said Sambu thatha.

We watched the goings-on.

Sambu thatha removed his shirt and vest and pointed to a black scar on his back.

"Now what do you say? When is the picnic?"

"Sure. But you have to supply tender coconuts throughout this summer," said grandpa. "For I told Aravind and Anand that I could make you remove your shirt without much ado. If I won, I promised them tender coconuts from your garden."

Both of them laughed. We too joined in for we were the beneficiaries either way!

R. Krishnaveni, Chennai.

Kumar nearly fainted when he received the news that he had won a lottery.

"What are you going to do with it now?" asked his friend Ramesh.

Kumar said, "I am going to give you half of the prize."

Ramesh fainted.

C.R. Rajesh, Gudiyattam.

STRANGE FACTS

* Did you know that some fish can survive even without water? As the summer approaches and ponds begin to dry up, these fish die, but not before laying hundreds of eggs. The eggs sink into the mud and remain alive, till the rains come and fill up the ponds. The eggs hatch and very rapidly grow up into adult fish.

* A giraffee's tongue is so long that it can clean its ears with it.

* The oldest tortoise on record was 152 years old — that's twice the average lifespan of a man.

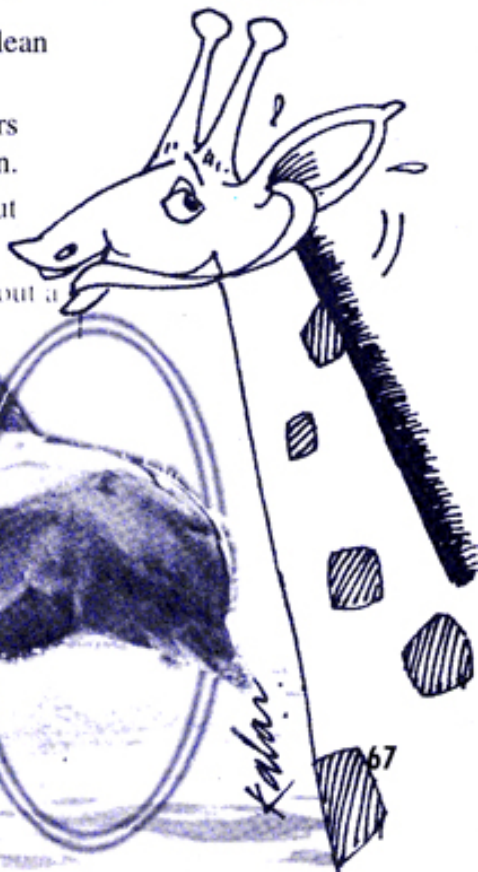
* A cockroach can survive for weeks without its head or if it is beheaded.

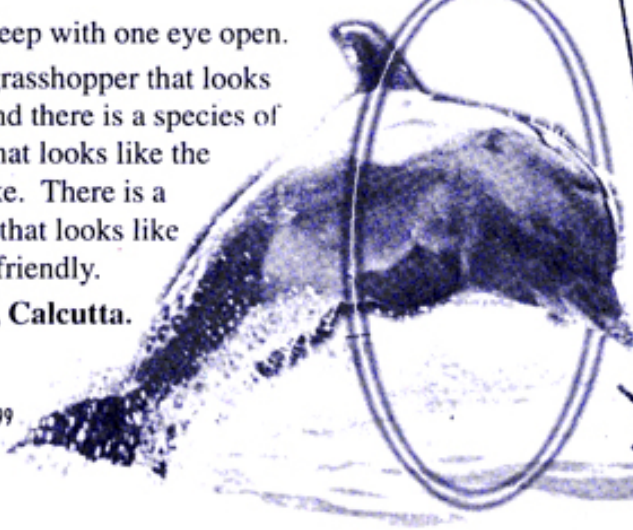
* Snails can sleep for up to three years without a break.

* Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

* There is a grasshopper that looks like a scorpion and there is a species of harmless snake that looks like the deadly coral snake. There is a species of beetle that looks like wasp but is very friendly.

SKA, Calcutta.





HELLO, DOCTOR!

Readers can send in medical queries and our doctor will answer them.

Here are a few common questions. Dr. G. Ganesan explains why and how your everyday problems occur.

• Can diabetic patients donate blood?

! They can. Diabetics suffer from a low level of insulin secretion in their pancreas. Insulin controls blood sugar. The problem lies only with the pancreas and not the blood. So, diabetics can donate blood.

• Why should needles and syringes be sterilised in hot water?

! Syringe needles should be soaked in boiling water for atleast 20 minutes. This will ensure that all germs have been killed. Sterilised needles will prevent germs from proliferating. The best solution is to buy disposable syringes. They are safer.

WHY DO PIMPLES OCCUR?

• What are pimples and why do they appear?

! Pimples affect men and women of all age groups but it is found more during adolescence. Pimples occuring at this stage is called acne vulgaris. The treatment for pimples becomes easy if one knows the cause. They occur because of excessive oil in the skin. The upper layer of the skin contains numerous open pores and the middle layer contains sebaceous glands. These glands secrete an oil called sebum.

Usually sebum helps in keeping the skin soft and supple as the amount of its secretion is minimum. But at the onset of puberty due to increase in sex hormones, the androgens in particular, sebaceous glands start secreting more sebum which is removed through open pores. These pores now become clogged with hardened sebum. The

tip of the clogged sebum which is exposed to air turns black. It is called 'blackheads'.

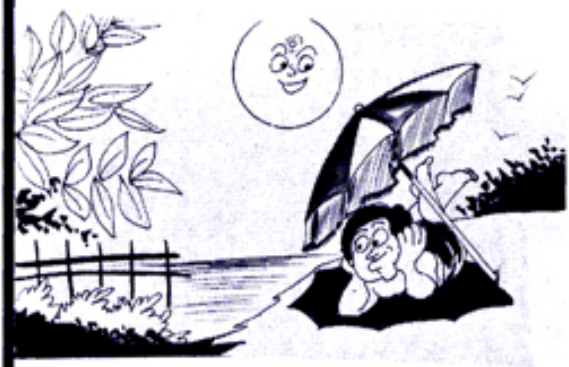
The swelling of skin around these blackheads results in pimples. Sometimes pimples contain pus due to infection. Pimples can be treated with anti-pimple cream alongwith appropriate antibiotics.

Here are some ways to control pimples —

1. Wash your face with soap and warm water as often as possible.
2. Do not use face powders, talcs or creams.
3. Avoid non-vegetarian food, butter, cream, cakes, ice-creams, chocolates, puddings, meat and eggs.
4. Increase intake of greens, spinach and other vegetables.
5. Don't touch your pimples.
6. Take your doctor's advice on the medication to use on pimples.

• Why does tooth ache often lead to fever?

! If germs attack an aching tooth it may destroy the root of the tooth, leading to tooth decay. When the teeth are affected, blood along the jaw bones and the neck may clot. This could lead to fever. Proper medication and removal of the rotten tooth will help.



OF SUMMER THRILLS AND WINTER CHILLS

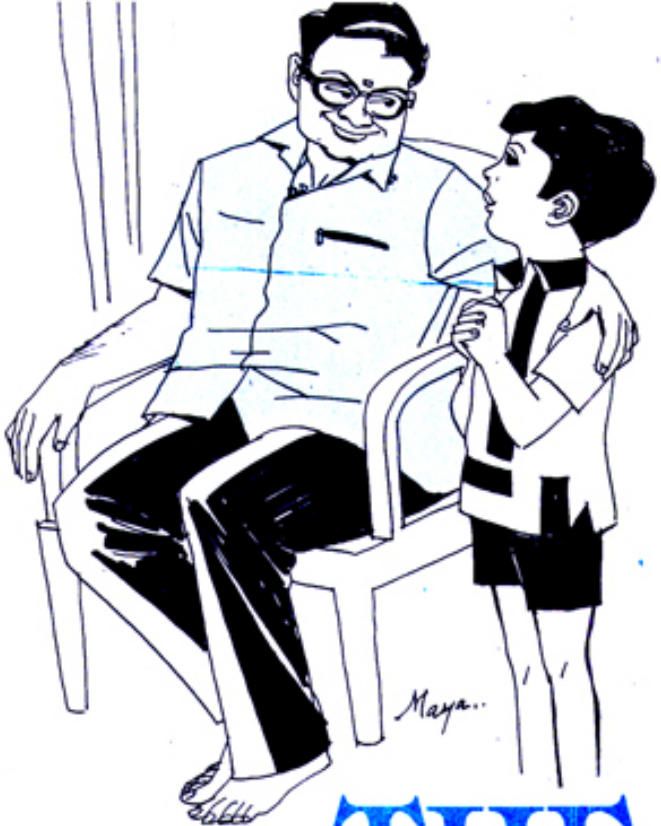
Oh! The summer thrills,
It shooes away the winter chills!
Hot summers give me a scare,
It is just like a nightmare!

The winter season I hate,
I wish it will always be late!
I want the summer to stay on
Because for me it brings hols and
tons of fun!

If summer didn't come,
Who will bring us all the fun?
Fun with mangoes and ice lollies,
And playing in the hot sun!

There'll be long drives and playing
with dollies,
Oh! The summer thrills,
It shooes away the winter chills!

Sweta Das, age 10,
KSMS, Jamshedpur.



THE ADVICE

Raju was a good student who always stood first in his class. Quite a number of boys in his class were jealous of him. One day, Raju overheard a few boys gossipping about him. It embarrassed him.

That day when he returned home, he could not concentrate on his studies. He couldn't even eat! This made his father curious. He asked Raju what bothered him. Raju told his father how the boys who he thought were his friends had been gossipping about him.

His father thought over the matter for a while and then said, "Son, some people may like you and some may not. Some may even indulge in back-biting. Beware of such friends."

Raju has now learnt to remain silent when the boys talk unpleasant things. He has realised that it is better to be silent than to fight. That way he could win over his critics too!

A. Archana, age 13,
Carmel Eng. School,
Nanjangud.

Baker : Madam, shall I cut the cake into six or 12 pieces?

Woman : Cut it into four. I'm on diet.

Pratik Jhakaria, age 13,
VPM Eng. HS.,
Mumbai.

Mercury and Venus

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. At only 58 million km, it is just over a third of the distance of the Earth from the Sun.

Mercury is the smallest of the nine planets revolving around the sun. Earth is 18 times larger than Mercury. The surface of Mercury is not much bigger than the areas of Asia and Africa together. Mercury is sunbaked and completely dry. It has no water and no air. The heat is blistering — upto 400°C, which is hot enough to melt lead.

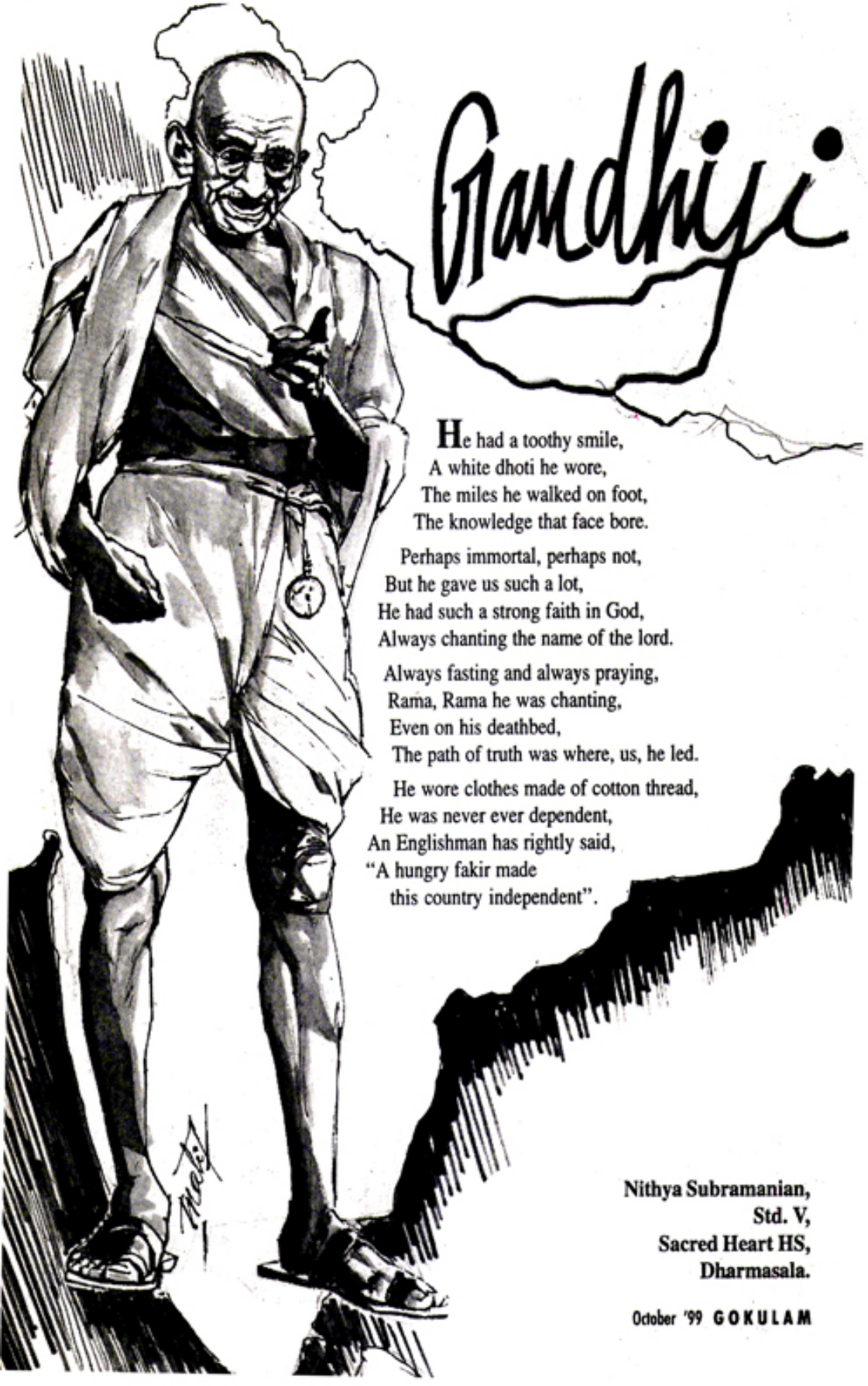
The nights are even colder than those on the moon. The temperature drops to - 200°C nearly cold enough to turn oxygen gas into a liquid. A day on Mercury lasts for 59 Earth days, but its year lasts only 88 Earth days — less then two Mercury days. On Mercury you would have four birthdays for every one year on Earth!

Venus is the hottest planet of all. During the day, the temperature on its surface rises to 460°C. Venus gets hotter than Mercury 'though it is farther from the sun. This is because it is covered with thick clouds that retains the heat. The air on Venus is mainly carbon dioxide.

Venus is almost the same size as Earth and consists mainly of iron, nickel and other metals, just like Earth. Unlike Earth, Venus has no plants and no life.

A 'day' on Venus is longer than a year! The planet takes 243 Earth days to spin on its axis, but 255 days to orbit the Sun. It spins on its axis in the opposite direction from the Earth. Venus is the closest planet to Earth.

R. Ranjani, Std. X A,
G.R.T. Mahalakshmi Vidhyalaya, Chennai.



Gandhiji

He had a toothy smile,
A white dhoti he wore,
The miles he walked on foot,
The knowledge that face bore.

Perhaps immortal, perhaps not,
But he gave us such a lot,
He had such a strong faith in God,
Always chanting the name of the lord.

Always fasting and always praying,
Rama, Rama he was chanting,
Even on his deathbed,
The path of truth was where, us, he led.

He wore clothes made of cotton thread,
He was never ever dependent,
An Englishman has rightly said,
"A hungry fakir made
this country independent".

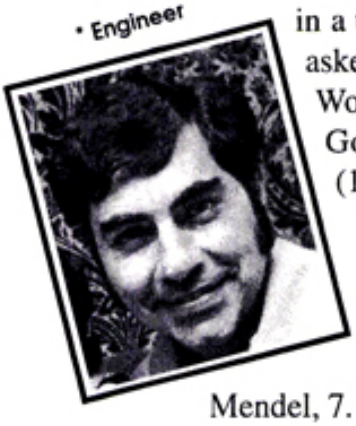
Nithya Subramanian,
Std. V,
Sacred Heart HS,
Dharmasala.

ANSWER PAGE

X	1 T	H	2 I	G	H	3 B	O	N	4 E
5 E	X	6 I	T	X	X	O	X	X	L
7 N	O	X	8 S	9 O	U	L	X	10 B	E
C	X	11 A	X	R	X	D	X	X	P
O	X	12 I	13 N	X	14 R	E	15 A	C	H
16 M	E	D	A	L	X	17 R	E	X	A
P	X	X	T	X	18 C	X	S	X	N
19 A	S	X	20 I	N	C	21 H	X	22 A	T
S	X	X	V	X	X	23 O	X	X	S
24 S	P	E	E	D	W	E	L	L	X

CRICKET QUIZ

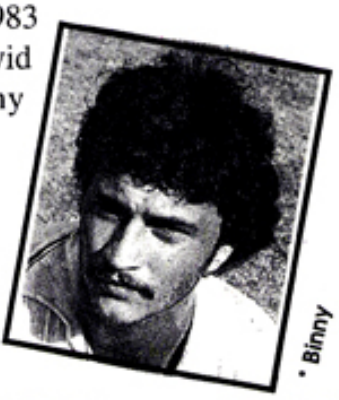
1. F.M. Engineer, 2. M.L. Jaisimha against Australia, 3. Vijay Hazare, 4. Clem Hill in 1901 - 02, 5. Headley Verity, 6. Baba Saheb Nimbalkar scored 443* against Kathiawar, 7. He was working in a tyre repair shop, 8. Sir Garfield Sobers said this when asked for an autograph after the 1983 World Cup finals at Lords, 9. David Gower (384), 10. Roger Binny (18).



• Engineer

QUIZ

1. June 12, 2. Quetta, 3. Quito, 4. Djibouti Fanc, 5. 18,376 sq.km., 6. Gregor Mendel, 7. Nepal.



• Binny

At a lunatic asylum a mad man placed his ear to the wall. A doctor who passed him by asked him what was wrong.

He asked the doctor to listen like him. The doctor placed his ear to the wall.

Doctor : I can't hear anything.

Mad person : If I could not hear for four hours how can you?

Pramod, Mini and Georgeena, Mumbai.

A TEENAGER'S PRAYER

Are you my friend, a real friend I can count on?
A true, honest friend who will stand by me
And not be put off by my acting out? If so,
I want to talk to you today
About myself, my friends, my world.
The endless questions I have,
The hundred and one things we talk about
And the things I never tell anyone.
I am pulled in so many directions
I feel like a bundle of contradictions,
I feel like a child at times
But want to be treated like a grown-up
And want to be pampered almost like a child.
I want to be reassured that I am likeable
That I'll succeed, that the changing moods are OK.
I want to be sure that I count,
That my life is worth living.
Be my friend always and help me to
Believe in myself and my life.
Help me to learn from others' and my own mistakes
And to admit my failures.
Do not let me waste youth in selfish and idle pursuits,
Teach me rather to use these years to
Learn who I am and what I want.
Under your loving gaze,
I will treat myself with patience and respect
And really grow up, not just grow old.
May I be a better person than I was yesterday
And may the world be a better place because of me.

V. Sirisha, age 14, MMHS, Secunderabad.

DO DOGS AND CATS FIGHT?

In a household where both animals are reared, you will find that both the cat and the dog co-exist peacefully. A cat loves to be pampered. A dog loves to be petted. A dog does not demand constant attention like the cat. A dog prefers to be left alone. A cat loves to be cuddled and cooed at! Only when the cat usurps a dog's place in the household will the dog fight with the cat.

A dog is sensitive and watchful. A cat is stealthy. Leave a bowl of milk and you will notice that the cat will slurp it silently.

Cats can turn door knobs and ring bells. A cat shut up in a room for a whole day will turn violent.

Dogs are extremely faithful to their owners. Some people train animals to steal! Animals by nature are not

thieves. A hungry animal may carry away food. Unless the animal feels threatened, it will not attack.

Dogs can be trained to work like horses. Dogs can pull sleds, take care of cattle, track down criminals and chase animals. Ancient man used to eat dog meat.

Why does your pet turn violent?

Improper care and forgetfulness will make your pet feel unwanted. At first your pet may throw tantrums. If you continue to ignore your pet or beat it up, it may turn violent.

Allow your pet ample space to move about. Bathe your pet once a week. Visit the vet with your pet atleast once a year. Maintain a file on the health of your pet. If you notice your pet becoming disinterested in food, it is probably suffering from some ailment.

Animals instinctively take care of their health. If you notice your dog eating grass, then he's probably suffering from indigestion.

Your pet dog's nose must be moist. The animals must have pink tongues. Pink tongues are a sign of good health.

When your pet is sick, follow the vet's prescription. Animals dislike medicine. So mix the medicine in the food and feed it to the animal.

Watch for unusual behaviours in your pet - like scratching. Take care of scabs and infested wounds. Bring it to your vet's notice. He will help to identify your pet's problems.

Do not wait until it is too late to do anything. A regular check-up at the vet will keep you satisfied.

Do not change your pet's doctors often.

Your pet is used to being handled only by a few people. If you notice that your pet dislikes being handled by a certain vet, then tell your vet.

Keep apart your pet's playthings and food bowl. Wash the food bowl and the towel you use to rub him down separately. Always wash your hand with soap after handling your pet.

Use a mild disinfectant for your pet's towels. It will take care of germs. Allow your pet plenty of space. It needs to exercise its limbs.

Your pet is like any other item that is very special to you. Watch how your parents pamper you and love you. Your pet cannot go back to its habitat. So, it looks to you for love and care. If you are nice to your pet then you have an understanding pet at your beck and call.

NEWS BITS

* A child being removed from the debris. Courtesy : PTI

Earthquake hits Turkey

An earthquake of magnitude 7.4 on the Richter scale rocked Turkey at 3.10 a.m. on August 17. About 45,000 people were estimated to have perished in the quake. The toll has been high because the quake hit when the people were asleep. All those who died or were buried under the debris were from buildings constructed shoddily. These buildings did not conform to rules laid down for constructions, the authourities found out later.

New mummies found

A temple guard struck mummies when his donkey's hoof stumbled on a hole in a town in Egypt. Near the town of El Bawiti an ancient burial ground has been found. Ten thousand mummies dating from 300 B.C. to 30 A.D. were found.

This burial ground is believed to house the mummies of middle class Egyptians. Some mummies are covered with linen, while others are decorated in gypsum.

Archeologists say that these mummies do not compare with the great pyramids but they do give an insight into the lives of common people of Egypt.

Giant beetle sold

Wakuwaku Land, a shop in Japan specialises in insects. It re-

cently sold a large stag beetle for $90,000. The stag beetle was eight cms. long. In Japan people enjoy collecting beetles. The beetle has earned the name - 'Black Diamond'.

Choosy mosquitoes

Mosquitoes don't just sting everyone. They choose their victims based on the odours emitted by their victims. When humans exhale, along with CO_2 they expel other odours. These odours travel through the air. A mosquito can detect the odour from as far away as 64.3 kms.

Mosquitoes choose victims who are most aromatically appealing, says a study. The best way to ward off mosquitoes is not to breathe at all!

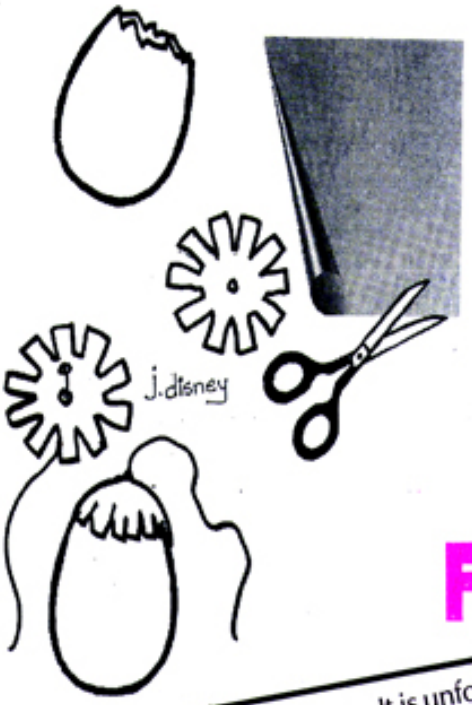
Friend of trees

The prestigious Indira Vriksha Mitra award for 97 - 98 has gone to Rongma Hrashel of Mizoram. Hrashel is a ranger in Mizoram Forest department. He helped to preserve 500 hectares of forest in Mizoram.

EGGTOON FOR YOUR TABLE

You need :

Egg shell (broken at the top)
Colour paper
Gum
Scissors
Thread
Black paint



Method :

Cut the colour paper to the size of the opening on the shell. Insert a thread through the paper. Paste the paper on the open end of the shell. Draw eyes, nose and lips using black paint.

C.K. Divya Janani, age 12,
St. Joseph M.S,
Coimbatore.

Dear Divya Janani, pl. send your house address.

Ram : It is unfortunate that my marriage took place on first April.
Shyam : What happened?
Ram : All gift packets contained only 'April Fool'.

R. Karthikeyan, age 12, Cuddalore.

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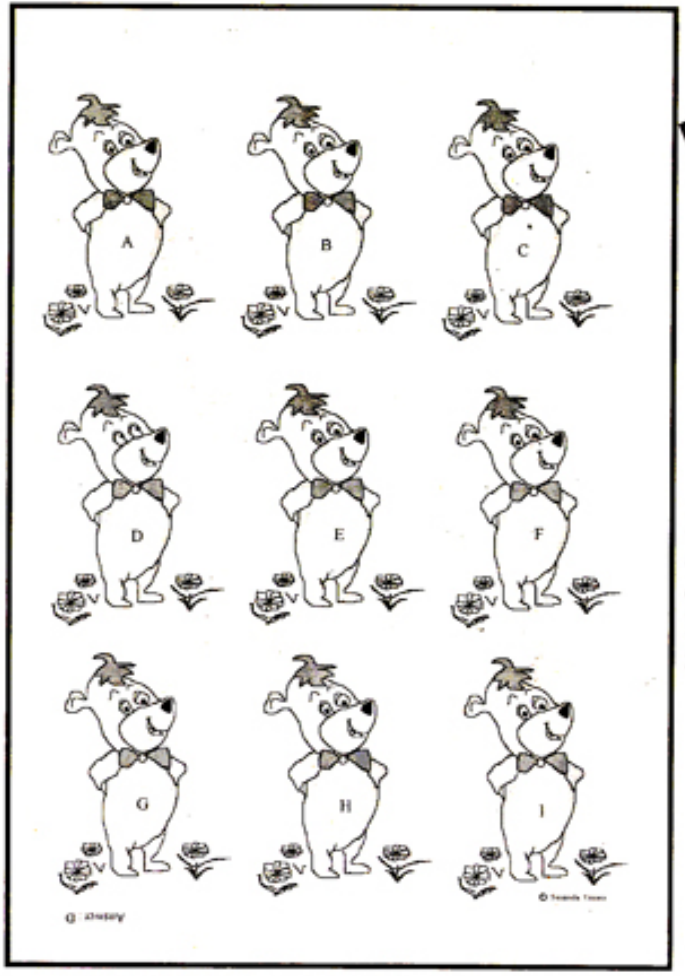
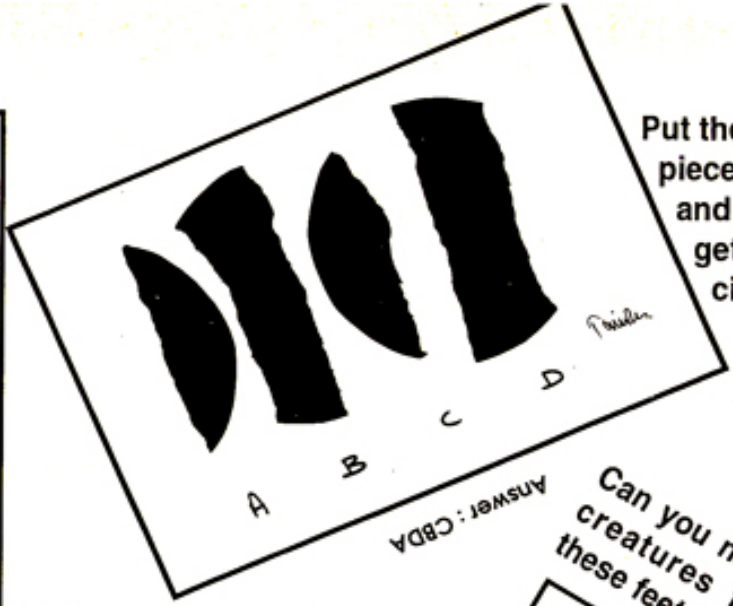
WHICH IS THE ODD ONE?



Answer : D

Gunduba Vellia, N. Delhi.



Answer : CBDA

Put the pieces right and you'll get a circle.

Father - Now Rahul always remember that charity begins at home.

Rahul - OK, dad. Then give me two rupees.

Archana Arun, Std. VII, Hindu S.S.S., Chennai.

Can you name the creatures to which these feet belong?

: 1) Crow, 2) Cat, 3) Elephant, 4) Duck

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